

## Twin Blasts Level Syrian University

**BEN HUBBARD**  
Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Twin blasts ripped through a university campus in Syria's largest city on Tuesday as students were taking exams, setting cars alight, blowing the walls off dormitory rooms and killing more than 80 people, according to anti-regime activists and a government official.



Syrians stand in the rubble of a university building leveled by twin blasts in Aleppo, Syria, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013. (AP Photo/SANA)

The opposition and the government blamed each other for the explosions inside Aleppo University, which marked a major escalation in the struggle for control of the hotly contested commercial hub. Activists said forces loyal to President Bashar Assad launched two airstrikes on the area, while Syrian state media said a "terrorist group" — the government's shorthand for rebels — hit it with two rockets. Either way, the explosions shattered the relative calm of the sprawling, tree-lined campus, signaling the creep of Syria's brutal civil war into areas that were previously spared the violence.

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## Silver Bullet



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signs the NY Safe Act into law in the Red Room of the New York State Capitol building in Albany N.Y., Jan. 15, 2013. (Nathaniel Brooks/The New York Times)

## Cuomo Signs Tough New Gun Bill Into Law

**MICHAEL VIRTANEN**  
Associated Press

**ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)** — Jumping out ahead of Washington, New York state enacted the nation's toughest gun restrictions Tuesday and the first since the Connecticut school massacre, including an expanded assault-weapon ban and background checks for buying ammunition. Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the measure into law less than an hour after it won final passage in the Legislature, with supporters hailing it as a model for the nation and gun-rights activists condemning it as a knee-jerk

piece of legislation that won't make anyone safer and is too extreme to win support in the rest of the country. "Common sense can win," Cuomo said. "You can overpower the extremists with intelligence and with reason and with common sense." Owners of an estimated 1 million previously legal semiautomatic rifles, such as the Bushmaster model used to kill 20 children and six adults in Newtown, Conn., a month ago, will be allowed to keep their weapons but will have a year to register them with police. The sale of any more such weapons is prohibited.

"When there's a pileup of events, when the federal government does not do it, the state of New York has to lead the way," said state Assemblyman Joseph Lentol, a Brooklyn Democrat and co-sponsor. In addition to outlawing a broader array of military-style weapons, the measure restricts ammunition magazines to seven rounds, down from the current 10, creates a more comprehensive database of people barred from owning guns, and makes New York the first state to require background checks to buy bullets. The system will also help flag

customers who buy large amounts of ammo. In another provision, therapists, doctors and other mental health professionals will be required to tell state authorities if a patient threatens to use a gun illegally. The patient's weapon could then be taken away. Richard Aborn, president of the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City, said Cuomo clearly understood gun violence is a complex issue requiring broader solutions than simply banning a particular weapon.

Continued on page 4



# Pakistan court has PM arrested amid anti-government protests

**SEBASTIAN ABBOT**  
**Associated Press**

**ISLAMABAD (AP)** — Pakistan's leaders received a powerful one-two punch Tuesday as the Supreme Court ordered the arrest of the prime minister in a corruption case and a fire-brand cleric led thousands of protesters in a second day of anti-government demonstrations in the capital.

the government's performance at a time when the country is plagued by high unemployment, rampant energy shortages and frequent attacks by Islamic militants. Many claim the country's politicians are more interested in lining their pockets through corrupt dealings than addressing problems facing Pakistani citizens. That perception is likely to

greater plan to derail democracy," Chaudhry said. The Supreme Court clashed repeatedly with the government during the past year, especially over an old corruption case against President Asif Ali Zardari in Swiss court. Pakistan's Supreme Court convicted Ashraf's predecessor, Yousuf Raza Gilani, of contempt of court for refusing to reopen the case



**Pakistan Sunni Muslim cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri addresses his supporters behind a bullet-proof glass at an anti-government rally in Islamabad, Pakistan, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013. (AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen)**

The events set the stage for renewed political crisis in Pakistan, a key U.S. ally in the fight against Islamic militants and efforts to stabilize neighboring Afghanistan. They sparked accusations that Pakistan's top judge and powerful generals were working to destabilize the government ahead of parliamentary elections expected in the spring, and possibly delay the vote. The upcoming elections would mark the first time a civilian government completed a full five-year term and transferred power through the ballot box. Past governments have been toppled in military coups or dismissed by presidents allied with top generals. A coup isn't expected this time around, but there is widespread unhappiness within the military, judiciary and the public about

be reinforced by the Supreme Court's order to arrest Prime Minister Raja Perwaiz Ashraf. The court ruling relates to a case involving private power stations set up to provide electricity to energy-starved Pakistan. The judges are investigating allegations that the bidding process was marred by corruption. Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry ordered the arrest of 16 people involved in the case, including Ashraf, who previously served as minister for water and power, according to a written court order. An adviser to the prime minister, Fawad Chaudhry, said any attempt to arrest the prime minister would be unconstitutional since he enjoys immunity from prosecution while in office. "We consider it a judicial coup, and it is part of a

and ousted him from office. The judges pressured Ashraf as well, and the government finally agreed to the court's demand to ask the Swiss to pursue the case — which Swiss authorities have said privately they have no intention of doing because Zardari enjoys immunity while in office. Some observers have accused the chief justice of harassing the government because of bad blood between him and Zardari. Others believe the judges are working in concert with the country's generals, although the court has pressured the army over alleged abuses as well. "Tuesday's developments at the Supreme Court are enough to believe that the judiciary and the establishment are working together against the government," said Chaudhry, the prime minister's adviser. □

# Venezuela struggles with sporadic food shortages

**C. TOOTHAKER**  
**VIVIAN SEQUERA**  
**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Mireya Bustamante spent most of the day Tuesday trying in vain to find flour to bake a birthday cake for her 4-year-old son. Like most Venezuelans, the single, 33-year-old office worker has periodically struggled with such food shortages for years, and, like many in the country, thinks they're getting worse. She blames price and currency controls imposed by the government, though authorities contend unscrupulous business owners are at fault. "An odyssey that never seems to end" was how Bustamante described the everyday challenge of finding basic foodstuffs. "What good are the controls if it becomes so difficult to find basic products?" asked the mother of three. "It's the government's fault, not the owners of neighborhood grocery stores." Venezuelans have long had to shop around to find scarce foods, and lately consumers have had particular trouble finding staples such as chicken, cooking oil, sugar and coffee, as well as toilet paper and some medicines. The shortages are a potential political vulnerability for the government while President Hugo Chavez remains in a Cuban hospital, unheard from more than a

month after his fourth cancer-related operation. Such economic questions about his socialist model are adding to the political uncertainty sparked by Chavez's illness and long absence. However, there have been no signs so far that the political crisis is aggravating the economic one. Chavez's government has sold cheap, subsidized staples at state-run markets for years to reinforce support among the poor. It says price controls, established in 2003, are essential to protect consumers by countering inflation while government-established exchange rates for foreign currencies are needed to prevent capital flight. Those currencies, chiefly the U.S. dollar, enter the country as payment for Venezuelan oil. Over the weekend, National Guard troops entered one market in downtown Caracas and confiscated 20 tons of beef, 15 tons of corn and 4 tons of garlic that allegedly violated price controls. A monthly scarcity index compiled by Venezuela's Central Bank, relying on spot checks in markets across the nation, reached its highest in four years last month. The index remains below a high hit in 2007, when widespread food shortages were considered a key factor in Chavez's defeat in a referendum on constitutional changes. □



**A worker weighs a bag of government subsidized food for a customer at a state-run market in Caracas, Venezuela. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)**



## AROUND THE WORLD

### Horse DNA found in supermarket meat

**LONDON (AP)** — The Irish food safety watchdog says that it has found traces of horse DNA in burger products sold by some of the country's biggest supermarkets, including a burger sold by global retailer Tesco that authorities said was made of roughly 30 percent horse. The Food Safety Authority of Ireland also said Tuesday that it had found traces of pig DNA in 85 percent of the burger products it tested in Irish supermarkets, including those operated by U.K.-based Iceland and German discounter Lidl. The watchdog says the unusual animal DNA in Ireland's burgers isn't a threat to anyone's health but does "raise some concerns." □

### 13 people dead in China mine accidents

**BEIJING (AP)** — Chinese state media say 10 miners have died and 28 others have been injured after a fire broke out at a gold mine in northeastern China. The official Xinhua News Agency says the miners were poisoned by carbon monoxide that built up in the mine from the fire early Tuesday. Xinhua says an initial investigation found faulty electric wiring caused the fire. Of the 28 injured, one is in critical condition. Nineteen people were rescued from the mine in Jilin province's Huadian city. Also Tuesday, a coal mine collapsed in another city in northeast China, burying three people. China has the world's deadliest coal mine industry. □

### 11 bodies discovered near Mexico City

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Prosecutors say 11 bodies have been found dumped at two different sites near the outskirts of Mexico City. Prosecutors in Mexico State say six bodies were found stuffed in plastic bags inside a car and the car's trunk. The car was abandoned in the town of Zinacantepec, east of Mexico City. Prosecutors said Tuesday that five other bodies were found Monday dumped on a street in Toluca, the capital of Mexico State. Mexico State surrounds Mexico City. The state prosecutor's office says it is investigating the circumstances surrounding the killings. The dumping of multiple bodies is a tactic used by Mexico's drug gangs. □

### Party expels past Dominican president

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)** — A former president of the Dominican Republic has been expelled from his party following a lengthy internal power struggle. Hipolito Mejia was found guilty of insubordination, contempt, divisiveness and promoting actions for personal benefit, according to a ruling released late Monday by a disciplinary committee of the Dominican Revolutionary Party. Three other politicians also were expelled for the same reasons as police outside party headquarters launched tear gas to disperse dozens of supporters. It is the first time that the party, founded by Juan Bosch, has expelled an ex-president. □

### Budvar secures Budweiser trademarks

**PRAGUE (AP)** — A British court has rejected for good brewery Anheuser-Busch's request to block rival Budvar from selling its beer under the Budweiser trademark in the country, the latest ruling in a long legal battle over the brand name. Britain's Supreme Court confirmed Tuesday that it rejected on Jan. 8 a request by Anheuser-Busch to overturn a ruling by the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal had said Budejovicky Budvar NP should keep the right to the name. □

## France bracing for retaliation at home

ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — France's military campaign to stop advancing Islamist insurgents in Mali has been met with a volley of threats from the extremists, feeding fears that the French could be targeted within their own borders. On Tuesday, as security forces stepped up

residents of France who may sympathize with the Islamists' desire for holy war, officials and experts said.

"We're facing an exterior enemy and an interior enemy," Interior Minister Manuel Valls said as French jets strafed targets in Mali, a once-stable African nation where a coup d'etat last year gave the extrem-

to Afghanistan, Syria and the Sahel (region of Africa where Mali is located). We're watching those who could return here."

Mali and al-Qaida specialist Mathieu Guidere said the French intervention gives substance to threats from militants, such as the statement on Monday by rebels in Mali that France



**A French army soldier patrols along a main department store in Paris, Tuesday Jan. 15, 2013. Armed soldiers are on patrol in Paris' subways, train stations and some of the world's most recognizable monuments to head off terror attacks after France's military launched an operation to push back al-Qaida-linked insurgents in Mali.**

(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

patrols everywhere from airports to the Eiffel Tower, France's top security official issued a grim warning: the enemy is already here. France is no stranger to attacks, including those by homegrown terrorists, some with roots in its former colonies. It suffered from bombings in the 1990s linked to the insurgency in Algeria, and just last March, a French-born radical Islamist killed three Jewish children, a rabbi and three paratroopers before being killed himself in a standoff with police.

French President Francois Hollande launched the surprise operation in Mali, a former West African colony, on Friday, with hopes of stopping al-Qaida-linked and other Islamist extremists he believes pose a danger to the world. The intervention, however, means France now faces a heightened terror threat, including potentially from

ists an opening to seize the vast north.

At least two arrests bolster fears that some French have joined or are trying to join the radicals in Mali — and perhaps return to plot attacks at home.

A 24-year-old French-Malian was arrested in November in Mali, suspected of being a scout to set up a recruiting network. A 27-year-old Frenchman was arrested in August in Niger, allegedly headed to neighboring Mali, and handed over to authorities in France, an official said on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authorization to discuss the case publicly.

Someone proven to be heading to a zone of combat risks being charged in France with preparing an act of terrorism. Valls, the interior minister, told the BFM television channel that "France is watching individuals who want to go


had "opened the gates of hell."

Since seizing Mali's north, the radicals have imposed their harsh version of Islamic law on the public, including using amputations as punishment for alleged crimes.

According to Guidere, the three extremist movements in northern Mali — al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, its offshoot the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa, and Ansar Dine — have threatened France along with al-Shabab, a Somali Islamist group. Al-Shabab is believed to have killed a French intelligence officer it had held hostage since July 2009 after a failed French raid aimed at saving him that coincided with the start of France's intervention in Mali.

At least seven other French hostages are believed to be held captive in northern Mali, and their fates, too, could be on the line. □






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## Cuomo Signs Tough New Gun Bill Into Law

Continued from front

"I think that's an important message for the nation," he said.

In a statement, the National Rifle Association said: "These gun control schemes have failed in the past and will have no impact on public safety and crime."

"While lawmakers could have taken a step toward strengthening mental health reporting and focusing on criminals, they opted for trampling the rights of law-abiding gun owners

in New York, and they did it under a veil of secrecy in the dark of night," the NRA said.

President Barack Obama will unveil his own proposals in response to the Newtown tragedy on Wednesday.

He favors sweeping gun legislation, including a ban on assault weapons. But because of powerful opposition from the gun lobby, he is said to be weighing 19 steps he could take through executive action alone.

Those could include ordering stricter action against

people who lie on gun-sale background checks, seeking to ensure more complete records in the federal database, and striking limits on federal research into gun use.

New York's law passed the state Senate, which is run by a Republican-dominated coalition, 43-18 Monday night. The Democrat-controlled Assembly approved it 104-43 Tuesday afternoon.

Republicans complained the measure was rammed through the Legislature and infringes on the Second Amendment right to



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signs New York's Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act into law during a ceremony in the Red Room at the Capitol on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013, in Albany, N.Y. (AP Photo/Mike Groll)

bear arms.

"A lot of people say, 'Why

do you need these guns?'" said Assemblyman James Tedisco, a Schenectady Republican. "It's part of the freedoms and liberties we have. ... It's for our public safety. It's to protect us from our own government."

He said the bill was dangerous because it would give people a "false sense of well-being."

"You are using innocent children killed by a madman for your own political agenda," he said. "You are actually making people less safe."

Tom King, president of the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, questioned whether other states or the federal government would follow New York's lead and said he expects the law to be challenged in court.

Previously, New York state law on assault weapons banned semiautomatics that have detachable magazines and at least two military-type features, such as a pistol grip, folding stock, muzzle flash suppressor or bayonet mount. □



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# Key senators back Hagel for defense chief

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama's choice to be his new defense secretary won the backing of two of the staunchest pro-Israel Senate Democrats in a clear boost to the Republican's prospects of securing the job.

Sens. Chuck Schumer of New York and Barbara Boxer of California said Tuesday that they had spoken extensively with Chuck Hagel and he had addressed their earlier reservations about whether he was "anti-Israel," too soft on Iran and opposed to gay rights.

"Based on several key assurances provided by Senator Hagel, I am currently prepared to vote for his confirmation," Schumer said the day after a 90-minute meeting with Hagel at the White House. "I encourage my Senate colleagues who have shared my previous concerns to also support him."

Boxer expressed her support and urged fellow senators to do the same after receiving a letter from Hagel in which he insisted that he supports Obama's foreign policy positions. In the letter, the former Nebraska senator also expressed regret for using the term "Jewish lobby" to describe pro-Israel groups, calling it a "very poor choice of words."



President Barack Obama, left, shakes hands with his choice for Defense Secretary, former Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Republicans said it was highly unlikely that Schumer and Boxer would have opposed a Democratic president's nominee at the start of Obama's second term. Still, the support of two of the most prominent Jewish members of the Senate is certain to ease concerns among pro-Israel lawmakers and rally non-committal Democrats to Hagel's side.

The Republican nominee must contend with opposition from the Republican Party ranks as Obama faces challenges to his choices in a fiercely partisan atmosphere. A handful of Republicans have announced their opposition to Hagel, including John Cornyn of Texas, the second-ranking Republican senator.

Hagel met Tuesday with Republican Sen. Susan Collins, who spoke in generally positive terms about the nominee but said she would reserve judgment

until after confirmation hearings.

"Our meeting today was helpful in addressing some of my concerns about his past statements, positions and votes," the Maine moderate said in a statement after the 90-minute session.

The two discussed Afghanistan, the defense budget, the Iranian threat and Israel. Collins was a strong proponent in 2010 of a law that allowed gays to serve openly in the military. She said she was satisfied that Hagel is "committed to implementing every aspect of this law."

Collins said they had an "open and frank discussion" about sanctions on Iran, and Hagel promised to provide her with additional information. □

## US taps pension fund to avoid passing debt limit

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says the government has begun borrowing from the federal employee pension fund to keep operating without surpassing its debt limit.

Geithner says in a letter to congressional leaders that the move will free up \$156 billion in borrowing authority while Congress debates increasing the \$16.4 trillion debt limit.

The government reached

its borrowing limit on Dec. 31, but began using book-keeping maneuvers to keep from surpassing it. Geithner has told congressional leaders that Treasury expects to exhaust those measures by mid-February to early March.

The latest action has been taken by other Treasury secretaries and will not put in jeopardy any monthly pension payments. Geithner said he will replace the funds removed from the pension account after the borrowing limit is raised. □

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## US inmate who asked for death set to be executed at 9pm Wednesday

**DENA POTTER**  
**Associated Press**

**RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)**

— When Robert Gleason Jr. walks into Virginia's death chamber Wednesday night and is strapped into the rarely used electric chair, it will mark the end of a twisted quest to speed his own death.

Gleason says it's not because he wants to die, but rather because he knows he will kill again if he's not executed. He was already serving life in prison when he killed his cellmate then vowed to continue killing unless he was put to death. When the system wasn't moving fast enough, he strangled another inmate and warned that the body count would rise if they didn't heed his warnings. Gleason waived his appeals, and he remains in a legal battle with his former attorneys as they file last-minute appeals to try to save his life against his wishes.

"Why prolong it? The end result's gonna be the same," Gleason said in one of numerous interviews he's given to The Associated Press over three years. "The death part don't bother me. This has been a long time coming. It's called karma."

Gleason is scheduled to die at 9 p.m. Wednesday (0200 GMT Thursday) at Greenville Correctional Center. Condemned Virginia inmates can choose between lethal injection and electrocution, and Gleason is the first inmate

to choose electrocution since 2010.

The unusual choice follows a series of other shocking moves.

Deputies had to use a stun gun on him during a violent outburst in court in 2008 before he pleaded guilty to a shooting death that sent him to prison for life. Despite there being little evidence against him, Gleason admitted to shooting Mike



**Robert Gleason Jr. is scheduled to die at 9 p.m. Wednesday by electric chair at Greenville Correctional Center in Jarratt.**

Jamerson, whose son was cooperating in a federal investigation into a methamphetamine ring that Gleason was involved in.

A year later he got so frustrated when prison officials wouldn't move his new, mentally disturbed cellmate, 63-year-old Harvey Watson Jr., that Gleason hogtied, beat and strangled the older man. Gleason remained in the cell with Watson's lifeless body for more than 15 hours before officers discovered the crime.

"Someone needs to stop it. The only way to stop me is put me on death row," he told AP at the time, repeating his threats in court on numerous occasions.

While awaiting sentencing at a highly secure prison in the mountains that is reserved for the state's worst inmates, Gleason strangled 26-year-old Aaron Cooper through the wire fencing that separated their individual cages on the recreation yard.

Gleason claims he's killed others — perhaps dozens more — but he has refused to provide details. He claims he's different from the other men on Virginia's death row for one important reason: he only kills criminals.

Watson was serving life for killing one man and injuring two others. Cooper was a carjacker with gang ties. "I ain't saying I'm a better person for killing criminals, but I've never killed innocent people," Gleason said. "I killed people that's in the same lifestyle as me, and they know, hey, these things can happen."

Gleason says he only requested death in order to keep a promise to a loved one that he wouldn't kill again. He said doing so will allow him to teach his children, including two young sons, what can happen if they follow in his footsteps.

"I wasn't there as a father and I'm hoping that I can do one last good thing," he said. □

## NY appeals court denies bail for cannibalism case

**LARRY NEUMEISTER**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)**

— A federal appeals court denied bail Tuesday for a New York City police officer charged with conspiring to rape, kill and eat women after a judge cited evidence that the case wasn't built on a fantasy.

The three judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with three lower-court judges that Gilberto Valle should remain imprisoned until his trial, which was originally scheduled to begin next week but was postponed until next month.

Their decision was announced without additional comment immediately after oral arguments. Valle was charged last year with using a law-enforcement database between last January to Oct. 24 as he made plans to kidnap, rape, kill and eat women while communicating with others on a website devoted to the exploration of deviant sexual fantasies. Defense lawyers have said all along he was engaging in sexual fantasies and intended no violence.

During Tuesday's arguments, defense lawyer Edward Zas said Valle was just like 40,000 other people who go online to "engage in the most heinous depraved chats but they are imaginary."

Circuit Judge Chester J. Straub questioned how the defense could argue that the case was built solely on fantasies when there was evidence that Valle and others used real names, engaged in surveillance and discussed how much money would be charged to kidnap a woman.

Zas said aspects of the government's case were already crumbling, including its claim that he went to Maryland to do surveillance on a woman, who now says she knew the police officer and there was nothing unusual about his visit. Zas called the prosecution misguided and predicted Valle would be exonerated.

"He's done nothing except imagine bad things and put them foolishly on the Internet in a very bad way," Zas said. "If there is just role playing ... there is no crime at all. The only crime is in Mr. Valle's imagination."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Hadassa Waxman told the court that the government had inadvertently mischaracterized the purpose of Valle's visit with the woman in Maryland but added that there was plenty of other evidence that went beyond fantasy.

She said, for instance, that Valle had accessed the recipe for chloroform and sent it to a co-conspirator and had an operating plan for kidnapping and cooking women. A co-defendant arrested in the case also has been denied bail. The prosecutor said Valle had created plots that were a "depraved, disgusting, troubling, gruesome" blueprint for kidnappings, and she noted that his wife had insisted on removing their daughter from their home. □



# Rubio pushes his party on immigration changes

JULIA PRESTON

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As President Barack Obama and Democratic leaders are preparing a major push to overhaul the immigration system, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida is asserting his leadership among Republicans on the volatile issue, previewing a proposal that includes measures to give legal status to millions of illegal immigrants.

Rubio, a Cuban-American in his first term whose star is rising rapidly in his party, has outlined views in recent days that set him apart from many other Republican conservatives, who reject any legalization as a form of amnesty that rewards immigrant lawbreakers. Rubio said he would not rule out some kind of legal status for immigrants in the United States illegally, although he insists that any measures should not penalize immigrants who have tried to come here through legal channels.

Rubio described his proposals in interviews last week with The Wall Street Journal editorial page and with The New York Times. By Monday he was already gathering support, as Rep. Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, a conservative who was the Republicans' vice-presidential nominee last year, endorsed Rubio's ideas.

Rubio laid out three: Aside from fair treatment for foreigners who play by the rules, he said, any legislation should also recognize that legal immigration has been a boon to the United States in the past and is "critical to our future." He would also insist on new measures to ensure strict enforcement at the border and within the country.

"We can't have the kind

of vibrant growth we need and the economy we want, based on limited government and free enterprise, if we don't have a legal immigration system that works," Rubio said. Ryan, on his Facebook page, wrote that Rubio was "exactly right on the need to

did not sound that different from proposals for an immigration overhaul by Obama, Democratic leaders and a handful of other Republicans. Aside from work under way at the White House on legislation, a bipartisan group of senators has been meeting to

cult to navigate and sometimes it just doesn't work." Rubio said he would seek to reorient the visa system to bring in more educated immigrants with skills in technology and science. As for the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the country, Rubio said, "We

"Ultimately it's not good for our country to have people permanently trapped in that status where they can't become citizens." After a certain period, he said, immigrants would be allowed to apply to become legal permanent residents, a status that would eventually allow them to become citizens.

The current system is clogged with huge backlogs, with some immigrants waiting as long as two decades to receive visas. Rubio said that potentially large flaw in his plan would be worked out in negotiations. □

Although Rubio said it would be better for Congress to take up the complex issues in separate pieces of legislation, he said he would not insist on that.

Rubio said he would offer a faster track to citizenship for young undocumented immigrants who came here as children.

Members of Rubio's staff have been meeting with leaders of United We Dream, the largest organization of those young immigrants.

"To me the most surprising thing was that he was talking about a pathway to citizenship," Lorella Praeli, a leader of the organization, said Monday. "There has been such a shift in the tone, in his vision."

Some conservative Republicans made it clear they would not support Rubio. □



Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(Brendan Hoffman/The New York Times)

fix our broken immigration system." "I support the principles he's outlined," Ryan said, "modernization of our immigration laws; stronger security to curb illegal immigration; and respect for the rule of law in addressing the complex challenge of the undocumented population." As one of three Hispanics in the Senate, Rubio, who won his seat in 2010 with support from the tea party, seemed to be trying to set a new tone for his party to discuss immigration. Many Republican leaders have been reconsidering the party's stance on the issue since the November election, when Latinos, the electorate's fastest-growing group, overwhelmingly supported Obama.

Strikingly, Rubio's principles

draft a bill. Where Rubio differed significantly with Democrats was on the legal pathway that illegal immigrants would follow, with his proposing a long and indirect course before some of those immigrants could apply to become U.S. citizens.

In a telephone interview, Rubio said a starting point for his plan was recognizing that the current immigration system was "burdensome, bureaucratic, diffi-

have to understand these folks are here to stay." He added that most of them had not committed serious or violent crimes.

"The right way to deal with them is not amnesty," Rubio said, "and it is not a special pathway to citizenship." Instead, he said, he would offer a provisional legal status to immigrants who passed criminal background checks, paid fines and passed English and civics tests. But, he said,



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# Venezuelan VP delivers state-of-the-nation address

**IAN JAMES  
VIVIAN SEQUERA  
Associated Press**

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro took the place of the country's ailing president Tuesday by delivering a short state-of-the-nation address amid legal debate about his legitimacy. Maduro submitted the report in writing from ailing President Hugo Chavez, who is receiving treatment in Cuba after undergoing his fourth cancer surgery. Opposition politicians had argued that lawmakers should have postponed the annual speech because Chavez was supposed to deliver it. Last January, Chavez spoke for nine hours before

lawmakers even as he was undergoing cancer treatments. Venezuelan constitutional expert Geraldo Blyde, a politician who sides with the opposition, said lawmakers should have postponed Tuesday's event. He cited sections of the nation's constitution stating that "only an acting president can personally present the report." Re-elected in October, Chavez has not made any public comments since his latest cancer surgery Dec. 11. He has been fighting an unspecified type of pelvic cancer, and his long silence has fed speculation about why he hasn't addressed the country by phone on television, as he



In this photo released by Miraflores Press Office, Venezuela's Vice President Nicolas Maduro, right, shakes hand with opposition leader, Miranda state Gov. Henrique Capriles during a meeting with the country's state governors, in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013.

(AP Photo/Miraflores Press Office)

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did during past treatments in Cuba. Government officials have said Chavez is being treated for "respiratory deficiency." Officials have indefinitely postponed Chavez's inauguration despite complaints by the opposition that the move was unconstitutional. Earlier Tuesday, Maduro said Chavez has been making progress in his treatment for a severe respiratory infection and asked questions of his aides during a visit Monday. Maduro said he and other officials including Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez provided Chavez with an update on "the government in a new stage" and other matters. "He asked our friend Rafael Ramirez about (certain) aspects" of the government, Maduro said in a televised meeting with state governors. "Our commander is climb-

ing the hill, he's advancing, and that fills us with great happiness," he said. Maduro expressed gratitude to Chavez's medical team but didn't give details, saying only that Chavez "is in battle." During the state-of-the-union speech, Maduro said Chavez designated former vice president Elias Jaua as the country's new foreign minister. Before the legislative session began, a crowd of government supporters gathered outside the legislative palace in downtown Caracas, waving flags and wearing the Chavista movement's trademark red. Francisca Harvey, 46, a member of the pro-government group Frente Francisco de Miranda, eagerly awaited Maduro's speech as loudspeakers blared the song "Chavez, heart of the people." "He's a strong man," Har-

vey said. "It's important that we have him healthy." Another woman outside the palace gates, Emiliana Quintero, a 54-year-old beautician, said she was loyal to the new government, even without Chavez present. "We are going to support Nicolas while the president recovers," Quintero said, referring to the vice president. Guards opened the gates of the palace, allowing dozens of Chavez backers to enter a courtyard. As opposition lawmaker Maria Corina Machado entered, the crowd began chanting: "They will not return!" Maduro made his comments about Chavez's health Tuesday at a gathering of state governors in Caracas after returning from Cuba along with Ramirez, Attorney General Cilia Flores and National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello. □



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# France seeks Arab backing for Mali campaign



A motorcyclist waves his support as French troops in two armored personnel carriers drive through Mali's capital Bamako on the road to Mopti Tuesday Jan. 15, 2013. French forces led an all-night aerial bombing campaign Tuesday to wrest control of a small Malian town from armed Islamist extremists who seized the area, including its strategic military camp.

(AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

STEVEN ERLANGER  
ALAN COWELL  
ADAM NOSSITER  
© 2013 New York Times  
PARIS — France carried

out new airstrikes overnight against Islamist fighters in central Mali, as Paris pledged Tuesday to commit more troops to a poten-

tially protracted campaign against extremists pressing south from a jihadist state they have forged in the desert north of the country.

The assessment that the conflict could be long and perilous appeared to be reflected in a call by France on Tuesday for Arab support to bolster an African force to fight the insurgents.

"We — not just the French, but all nations — have to combat terrorism," Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said during a visit to the United Arab Emirates in the Persian Gulf, announcing that donors would meet later this month, probably in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss financing an offensive against the rebels in Mali, Reuters reported.

"Everybody has to commit to oneself in fighting against terrorism," Fabius said. "We are pretty confident that the Emirates will

go into that direction as well."

On Monday, the extremists overran the central village of Diabaly, just hours after Fabius said confidently that France had blocked "the advance of the terrorists," accomplishing its first mission in the conflict.

But the French defense minister acknowledged that the military situation was different.

A column of militants had pushed within about 50 miles of one of Mali's largest cities, forcing France to evacuate its citizens in the area and bringing the Islamists a step closer to Bamako, Mali's capital — closer, in fact, than they had been before French forces entered the fight. □

## Flu, norovirus on the rise in Europe

ANAHAD O'CONNOR  
© 2013 New York Times  
Americans are not the only ones under siege by influenza. The flu is now widespread in at least 10 European countries, and a growing number are reporting an increase in cases. At least 16 European countries are reporting increasing flu activity, with much of it in the northwestern part of the Continent, according to the latest weekly surveillance report from the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control in Stockholm. Norway appears to be hardest hit. So far it is the only nation on the Continent reporting "high intensity" flu transmission. As of

this week, about a dozen other countries, including France, Germany and Ireland, were experiencing more moderate levels, up from four in the last week of 2012, the center said. As in the United States, the flu arrived early in Europe. But experts there say that although activity is increasing, they do not expect the flu season overall to be much worse than normal. So far, 239 hospitalized cases were confirmed through laboratory tests as influenza, a number that is expected to grow. It is presumably lower than the actual number of cases, since many who contract the flu do not end up in hospitals. The report also noted that

two confirmed cases so far were fatal. In the United States, the predominant virus strain this season is Type A. In Europe, the predominant strain is Type B, which has two subtypes. According to the new report, this season's vaccine is better suited to the viruses circulating in Europe. "The virological match with the strains in the current seasonal influenza vaccine is considered good," the authors wrote. But at the same time, parts of Europe are being gripped by norovirus, the severe gastrointestinal illness that also has spread across the United States and Canada. □

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# Twin blasts at Syrian university kill more than 80

Continued from front

The competing narratives about what caused the blasts highlighted the difficulty of confirming reports from inside Syria.

The Syrian government bars most media from working in the country, making independent confirmation of events difficult. Both anti-regime activists and the Syrian government sift the information they give to journalists to boost their cause. And civilians stuck in the middle avoid talking to the media, fearing reprisals from both sides for speaking their minds.

Aleppo has been the focus of a violent struggle for control since rebel forces, mostly from rural areas north of the city, pushed in



Syrians gather at the site of a university building leveled by twin blasts in Aleppo, Syria, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013. Two explosions struck the main university in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo on Tuesday, causing an unknown number of casualties, state media and anti-government activists said. (AP Photo/SANA)

and began clashing with government troops last summer.

The university is in the city's northwest, a sector still controlled by the government. Both activists and the Assad regime said those killed in Tuesday's blasts were mostly students taking their mid-year exams and civilians who sought refuge in the university dorms after fleeing violence elsewhere.

The blasts caused widespread destruction, scattering rubble and more than a dozen flaming cars across a wide street near a dormitory, according to videos shot on site. The dormitory's windows were blown out and some of its walls were gone, revealing beds and other furniture inside. Students and rescue workers combed the rubble, carrying away the wounded. Images circulated by activists showed dead bodies lying in the street. The photos and videos appeared to be genuine and corresponded to other Associated Press reporting. Activists said a government warplane carried out two airstrikes on the university. To support their claim, they circulated a video they said showed a small trail of smoke left by a jet. They could not explain why the government would strike an area controlled by its forces.

"We have no idea why the plane hit there, but it was very clear that it was a plane that struck," said an Aleppo activist reached via Skype who spoke on condition of anonymity due to security concerns. Syria's state news agency said a "terrorist group" — government shorthand for rebels — fired two rockets at the university from an area further north. □

# Pakistani soldier dies in Kashmir attack

**S. ABBOT**  
**TIM SULLIVAN**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — Pakistan on Wednesday blamed Indian troops for killing one of its soldiers along the disputed Kashmir border, the latest in a series of tit-for-tat attacks that threaten to ratchet up tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. In New Delhi, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Tuesday that his country's relations with archrival Pakistan "cannot be business as usual." In Islamabad, the Pakistan military claimed Indian troops fired at a Pakistani army post across the so-called Line of Control that divides the Himalayan region. Two other Pakistani soldiers and two Indian soldiers have died during the past 10 days in the worst bout of fighting in the region in nearly 10



An Indian army soldier points towards the Pakistan side of the border near the Line of Control (LOC), the line that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan, in Churunda village, northwest of Srinagar, India, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013.

(AP Photo/Mukhtar Khan)

years. India said one of its soldiers was beheaded. "What has happened is unacceptable," Singh said of the killing of the Indians, according to media reports. He made the brief comments to reporters at a New Delhi gathering for India's annual day honoring the military. The Pakistani army said the shoot-

ing from Indian troops, which started at 10 p.m. Tuesday and lasted for an hour, was unprovoked and occurred in the Hot Spring and Jandot sectors of Pakistan-held Kashmir. The soldier who was killed was identified as Naik Ashraf. The army said he is survived by his wife and three daughters. The Indian mili-

tary did not immediately comment on the shooting. India and Pakistan have been rivals for decades, though ties had been improving markedly in recent years. The two have fought three wars since they were carved out of British India in 1947 — two of them over Kashmir. The region is divided between the two countries, but each claims it in its entirety. Senior Pakistani and Indian officials so far have kept tension from the recent events from spiraling out of control. They are trying to limit the potential damage to relations, which have slowly warmed since Pakistani militants killed 166 people in the Indian coastal city of Mumbai. They suspended peace talks after the Mumbai attack, but both countries have economic and other reasons for wanting better ties. □





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### Iran: Khamenei's ban on nuclear weapons binding

**ALI AKBAR DAREINI**  
**Associated Press**

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — Iran sought Tuesday to spell out in its clearest terms yet that it is not seeking nuclear weapons, highlighting a religious decree issued by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that bans nuclear weapons.

The latest reference to Khamenei's declaration is seen as a bid to close the door on debates that Iran may have carried out atomic bomb trigger tests as inspectors from the U.N. atomic watchdog were on their way to Tehran for a new round of discussions. Iran authorities have often cited Khamenei's religious edict, made more than seven years ago, in attempts to counter Western suspicion that Iran could be moving toward nuclear arms. But Iranian leaders now appear increasingly desperate to reopen talks with world powers as a possible way to ease sanctions.

Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast touched on a cultural rift between the Islamic Republic and the West, saying the United States and its allies don't understand the significance of the edict.

"There is nothing higher than the exalted supreme leader's fatwa to define the framework for our activities in the nuclear field," he told a press conference. Mehmanparast could not be more definitive in dispelling suspicions that Iran may ultimately develop a nuclear weapon. □

## Up to 19 dead, 100 injured in Egypt train wreck

**MAGGIE MICHAEL**  
**Associated Press**

**BADRASHEEN, Egypt (AP)** — Packed in a rickety train speeding through the night, the poorly fed, pale-looking Egyptian conscripts

arms or legs torn off.

The accident was the latest example of Egypt's decrepit infrastructure turning lethal for the country's poorest — and a reminder that the revolution two

military helicopter hovering over the wreckage of the train enraged bystanders gathered at the site near Badrasheen station, 12 miles (20 kilometers) south of Cairo.

Morsi slogans took place at the train stations in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria and the industrial Nile Delta city of Mahallah el-Kubra.

The crash came just ahead of the two-year anniversary of the Jan. 25 start of the anti-Mubarak uprising. The anniversary is expected to bring rallies by opponents of Morsi.

Since he came to power in June as Egypt's first elected president, Morsi has faced mounting economic, social and security woes. During his presidential campaign, Morsi promised a 100-day plan to resolve Egypt's most pressing issues like providing bread, cleaning up garbage and instilling security, but failed to deliver on most.

Only two months ago, 50 children died when a train rammed into their school bus in southern Egypt. Like Tuesday, that tragedy sparked a storm of criticism of Morsi's administration. Accompanied by TV cameras, Morsi visited a number of survivors from Tuesday's crash and pledged to hold officials accountable.

"My heart is bleeding for Egypt's martyrs and the injured and God willing, this accident will be the last to sadden Egypt and Egyptians," Morsi said at a military hospital in suburban Cairo. The head of the Brotherhood's political party, Saad el-Katatni, said the accident was "evidence of the near complete collapse of the infrastructure after years of corruption under the rule of the ousted president." □



**Egyptians railway workers attempt to remove debris from tracks following a train crash in Badrasheen, 40 KM south of Cairo, Egypt, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013. At least 19 people died and more than 100 were injured when two railroad passenger cars derailed just south of Cairo, health officials say. The accident comes less than two weeks after a new transportation minister was appointed to overhaul the rail system, and just two months after a deadly collision between a train and school bus.**

(AP Photo/Ahmed Gomaa)

were coming from some of Egypt's most dirt-poor villages to serve in one of the most miserable, lowly jobs of the security forces — as grunts in an anti-riot force usually deployed against protesters.

At a station just outside of Cairo before dawn Tuesday, the train's last car jumped the track, slammed into a parked train, and then was dragged for several kilometers. The car was torn to pieces, young recruits were sent flying along the tracks, and others were mangled.

In the end, 19 recruits mostly in their early 20s were killed and more than 100 were injured, some with

years ago has brought no relief in the lives of a population where poverty is worsening. The crash brought a new wave of anger at Islamist President Mohammed Morsi for failing to carry out reforms or overhaul the country's crumbling public services. Morsi's supporters say such criticism is unfair, that he can't immediately fix the result of years of neglect and poor administration from ousted autocrat Hosni Mubarak's 29-year rule. The Mubarak era saw a string of train fires, crashes and a ferry sinking, some killing hundreds at a time. Still, the anger was brewing Tuesday. After daybreak, a

"Where were you when the accident happened?" men shouted, waving at the helicopter. Nearby, blood-stained train seats were scattered along the track, along with shoes and clothes, along with the shredded shell of the train car.

Hundreds of protesters massed in Cairo's main train station, chanting, "The people want to topple the regime," the main slogan of the uprising that ousted Mubarak in February 2011. They were joined by passengers whose trips were cancelled because most trains in the country were halted after the accident. Other protests with anti-



# South Africa mine closure threatens 14k jobs

**JASON STRAZIUSO**  
**Associated Press**

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — The world's largest platinum producer said Tuesday it will close some operations, sell one mine in South Africa and cut 14,000 jobs, just months after mining strikes turned violent, killing dozens of people.

Anglo American Platinum said a nearly yearlong review found that four mine shafts needed to be closed and one mine sold because of unprofitable operations. The government's minister of mines and the National Union of Mineworkers, NUM, expressed surprise and shock at the announcement.

"The NUM will engage the company in a bid to save these jobs and appeals on workers to work together to safeguard their own jobs," said NUM general secretary Frans Baleni.

A Twitter posting from NUM was less diplomatic, saying the union has repeatedly called on workers to unite and defeat the evil nature of capitalism, which seeks

to put profits first and humanity last.

Some 46 people were killed during a six-week period of violent strikes at Lonmin's platinum mine last year in Marikana, South Africa, when miners demanded

people.

The labor unrest spread in South Africa, and Anglo American Platinum, known locally as Amplats, saw a more than eight-week strike that crippled the giant at its operation

to reinstate them in October, though the miners did not return to work until November.

Amplats on Tuesday said that 13,000 of the jobs it wants to cut are in the Rustenburg region.

Mineral Resources Minister Susan Shabangu said Tuesday that miners and their families would be hugely affected by the cuts. She cast doubt on a plan by Anglo American Platinum to create new jobs for those cut from the workforce.

"You can't train at the tail end of everything," she said. "Those skills are not created in a sustainable way."

Anglo American Platinum said it takes its social responsibilities to its laid-off workforce seriously and would try to create 14,000 new jobs focused on housing, infrastructure and small business development.

"The platinum business has attractive underlying fundamentals, but we are facing tough decisions to restore profitability to our operations. □



**Striking mineworkers protest in Marikana, South Africa. The Anglo American Platinum mining company the world's largest platinum producer, announced Tuesday Jan. 15, 2013, it will close four mine shafts and sell one mine, expecting to cut some 14,000 jobs only months after the country suffered massive labor unrest in the mining sector.**

(AP Photo/Denis Farrell)

higher wages. In the most shocking incident, police fired into a crowd of striking miners near the Marikana mine on Aug. 16, killing 34

in Rustenburg, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) northwest of Johannesburg. The company had fired 12,000 workers and then agreed

# Expired license for missing Missoni CEO's pilot

**ROME (AP)** — The pilot of the plane that disappeared Jan. 4 over Venezuela with the CEO of Italian fashion house Missoni and five others on board had an expired medical fitness certificate, and the company operating the aircraft didn't yet have permission to fly, Italy's air safety agency said Tuesday.

The National Flight Safety Agency stressed that at the moment, neither factor "represents a direct, correlating cause" of the disappearance, but are merely facts gathered in the investigation.

The BN-2 Islander dropped off radar screens soon after takeoff Jan. 4 from the resort islands of Los Roques about 13 miles (20 kilometers) to the south during a flight to Caracas. It was carrying two crew members and four Italian tourists, including Vittorio Missoni, CEO of his family's fashion company.

Italy sent four experts to help with the search, and on Tuesday the air safety agency reported details that have been gathered so far.

In a statement, the agency said the company operating the plane didn't yet have the certificate required for aircraft operators.

Asdrubal Bermudez, president and owner of the company Transaereo 5074, told The Associated Press last week that while the company hadn't yet received certification as a small airline the plane had met all safety requirements. The Italian agency also said the pilot's psychological-physical fitness certificate

expired on Nov. 30.

The agency noted that the pilot was over age 65 but that in Venezuela pilots that age are allowed to fly within national airspace. Bermudez told the AP that pilot Hernan Merchan, 72, was an experienced pilot for Venezuelan airlines as well as the state oil company.

Seven minutes after take-off, the pilot radioed the control tower that he was at 5,000 feet and 10 nautical miles from the Los Roques airport, the agency said. The pilot was told to next contact air traffic control at Caracas' Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia — contact that was never established.

The last radar readings showed the aircraft still accelerating at 5,400 feet, after which time it started to quickly lose altitude and speed, progressively veering to the right until it disappeared from the radar. □



**Members of the Venezuelan National Guard search for a missing plane carrying Italian fashion executive Vittorio Missoni and five other people near Los Roques, Venezuela.**

(AP Photo)

# Cuba admits to 51 Havana cholera cases

**ANNE GARCIA**  
**PAUL HAVEN**  
**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — Cuba's Public Health Ministry on Tuesday acknowledged 51 new cases of cholera in the capital amid growing concerns about the illness' spread and disappointment in the diplomatic community over the government's lack of transparency.

The ministry said nobody had died from the latest outbreak, which began Jan. 6, and stressed that preventive measures already taken had put the disease "on the way to extinction." It said cholera was first detected in the capital's Cerro neighborhood, and then spread elsewhere. No other areas of the capital were mentioned, but there have been reports of cases in the leafy Playa neighborhood that is home to many foreign embassies.

The government has not responded to repeated requests for comment in recent months, nor has it made any experts available to talk about the cholera situation. The family of one man, 46-year-old Ubaldo Pino Rodriguez, told The Associated Press last week that he died of cholera in Cerro on Jan. 2, about two weeks after going to the hospital with severe vomiting.

Rodriguez's sister, Yanise Pino, said her brother had a drinking problem and lived in squalid and unhygienic conditions in a tiny makeshift wooden dwelling. "When he began to feel bad he thought it was from drinking and nothing else," she said, adding that he left the hospital of his own accord last month. She said that following his death authorities sealed off Ubaldo's room and told her to burn all his belongings. Juan Bautista Ferrera, a retiree in Havana's Miramar neighborhood, told AP that he was hospitalized with cholera for five days last week after suffering severe diarrhea. □





## South Korean Ambassador visits with Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar



**ORANJESTAD** - January 14, 2013: It's not every day and ambassador from an Oriental country visits Aruba, for this reason the South Korean ambassador Key Cheol Lee was enthusiastically welcomed by the cabinet of ministers. Minister of Economy, Social Affairs and Culture,

Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar received a courtesy visit from Ambassador Key. During their meeting the two dignitaries exchanged information touching various themes that focus on economy. Ambassador Key is stationed in Den Haag, Holland. □



**Enthusiasm is building!!!**

## Local Store fills up during “Road To Flip Flop Party”



**ORANJESTAD**, Aruba –January 14, 2013: Friday night Local Store was filled inside and out during the “Road to Flip Flop Party”. The band Honey Pot performed, as well as music being provided by DJ Nutz Beatz. The event was transmitted live on the Carnival program Riba Bou on ATV, local channel 15. With each purchase of a six-pack of Chill beer, you could choose a gift such as a Chill flipflop opener



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A woman with blonde hair, identified as Jennifer Smith, is sitting on a blue beach chair. She is wearing a black and white striped swimsuit and is smiling at the camera. The background is a sandy beach.

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or neon yellow “Chill” sunglasses. The event was simple a taste of what is to come this Sunday at Nikky Beach (Ex Surfside Beach) where there will be bands,

local and international DJs, and don't forget all the great prizes and giveaways at the FlipFlop Party There'sa whole lotta 'chillin' goin on! ☐





## Fatum Holding NV has purchased the shares of Thoma Assurantieadviseurs BV and Thoma Assuradeuren BV

**ORANJESTAD** - Fatum Holding NV has purchased retroactively as of January 1st, 2012 the shares of Thoma Assurantieadviseurs BV and Assuradeuren BV in Lochem, Netherlands. Thoma has been active for over 50 years as a full service consultancy and underwriting agent. With a premium turnover of 50 million Euros, Thoma is one of the larger insurance companies in the eastern region of the Netherlands. Thoma Assurantie- en Pensioenadviseurs employs about 60 people. With the takeover, the involvement of the consultancy and the agility of the underwriting agent remain, while Thoma can reinforce itself using the expertise of Fatum. The independent working method of Thoma Assurantie- en Pensioenadviseurs will remain undiminished.



Founded in 1904, Fatum is an intermediary insurance company situated in Curacao, Aruba, Bonaire and Sint Maarten.

On their home market, Fatum is a leading insurer for damage, life, and health insurance for the private and business market. Guardian Holdings Limited, a financial service provider for insurances, pensions, and investments, is a shareholder of Fatum since 2003 and has an A-stable rating (AM Best).

By overtaking Thoma, Fatum realizes its ambition to establish a solid position in the Netherlands.

Its subsidiary company and damage insurance company Fatum General Insurance NV can realize a further growth by cooperating with Thoma. The new combination bundles the involvement of the intermediary, the agility of the underwriting agent, as well as the knowledge and capital of the insurer.

Hans Thoma, CEO of

Thoma: "This step means that we can keep serving our private and business relations as well as our brokers in the same good way as they have been used to for more than fifty years. The overtake by Fatum also means that we are given the opportunity to realize further growth in a rapidly changing market, without having to compromise our quality."

That is something I am really proud of." Hans Thoma will keep work-

ing for Thoma Assurantie- en Pensioenadviseurs.

René van den Broek, CEO of Fatum in the Netherlands: "This acquisition confirms the lasting presence of Fatum in the Netherlands and fits in the growth strategy that Fatum has in mind. The commercial agility of Thoma and the financial security of Fatum General Insurance as the accountable party present good opportunities to reinforce this position and optimize the profitability." □

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<b>Dunkin Donuts</b>	2 FREE Donuts with purchase of Latte, Cappuccino or Espresso 6pm - close	<b>Subway</b>	2 FREE Cookies with Foot Long purchase 6pm - 10pm
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CASINO AND SHOPS



# Awesome in Louis Vuitton: Rachel Weisz, Jessica Alba and Hugh Jackman enchant fashion watchers at Golden Globes!

**BEVERLY HILLS** - Once again fashion watchers the world over were on "high alert" at the 2013 Golden Globe awards, where Rachel Weisz and Hugh Jackman caught the attention of photographers and Red Carpet fans for their fabulous Louis Vuitton fashion choices. The awards ceremony took place on Sunday at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.

Nominee for the "Best performance by an actress in a motion picture" for her role in "The Deep Blue Sea", Rachel Weisz and her husband Daniel Craig both wore black. But, she was certainly the one to prove that black is anything but boring in a sheer polka dot

Louis Vuitton dress that was described as elegant and playful. She told The Hollywood Reporter, which dubbed her a "1940s siren", that Louis Vuitton made the dress for her. "They utterly embraced my style - understated but with detail," she explained.

For the elegant, black tie affair, Australian actor Hugh Jackman chose to steer away from the usual black tuxedo, and wore a midnight blue tuxedo by Louis Vuitton. Eye catching, looking dapper in a color that is not a classic for the tuxedo, he immediately made it onto many "best dressed" lists while walking down the Red Carpet. Hugh became the winner of the Golden Globe in the cat-

egory "Best performance by an actor in a motion picture - comedy or musical" for his role in Les Miserables. After the awards, at the Warner Brothers InStyle Golden Globes after-party Jessica Alba swap her Red Carpet gown and shimmered in a party-ready sequin black and white long sleeve checkerboard Louis Vuitton dress. The beautiful piece is featured in the 2013 Spring Summer collection, of which the Aruba boutiqueat Renaissance-Mall will also have a selection of bags and accessories on display.

For her smashing choice, Jessica was chosen by most fashion watchers as the "Best dressed" of all after-party divas and in mere



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minutes of her arrival at the celebration, her photo was all over Internet media outlets. At the first Red Carpet event for 2013, Louis Vuitton began the year making statements in fashion

and style, as a favorite with film celebrities. Louis Vuitton fashion statements are certainly not reserved to celebrities and also to be found on Aruba at the Louis Vuitton boutique at Renaissance Mall. □





**Australian Open**  
Serena hurts  
ankle, Federer,  
Murray advance



Japan's Kimiko Date-Krumm reacts after winning her first round match against Russia's Nadia Petrova at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013. Date-Krumm became the oldest woman to win a singles match at the Australian Open.

Associated Press

**DENNIS PASSA**  
AP Sports Writer  
**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)** — Serena Williams frightened a few people, including herself. Defending champion Victoria Azarenka had a momentary lack of concentration. Two of the biggest names on the men's side at the Australian Open — Roger Federer and Andy Murray — had straight-set wins. Day Two at Melbourne Park on Tuesday brought another day of perfect weather but a few anxious moments for Williams, who fell awkwardly on her right ankle in her 6-0, 6-0 win over No. 110-ranked Edina Gallovits-Hall. Williams had the ankle heavily taped by trainers and was able to continue and still dominate the Romanian player.

Continued on Page 18



**LeBron nears  
20,000-points  
milestone**

Miami Heat forward LeBron James, left, dunks over Sacramento Kings forward Francisco Garcia during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013.

Associated Press  
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## Australian Open

Continued on Page 18

Later, she said she hoped to continue playing — she'll have a scheduled day off Wednesday, returning Thursday to play her second-round match — and maintain her quest of winning her third Grand Slam tournament in a row and sixth Australian Open. "I think I was really, really close to panicking because a very similar thing happened to me last year, almost on the same side, the same shot," Williams said. "I just had to really remain calm and think things through."

She left little doubt she'll be back to play her second-round match Thursday against Garbine Muguruza of Spain, who needed a 14-12 win in the deciding set to clinch her first-round match Tuesday against Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia.

"Oh, I'll be out there," Williams said of her second-round match. "I'm alive. My heart's beating. I'll be fine."

Azarenka trailed 3-0 in the second set of her match with Monica Niculescu before leveling the set at 4-4 and winning 6-1, 6-4.

"I started well but I struggled a little in the second set," Azarenka said.

Told that her biggest threat on her half of the draw had injured her ankle, Azarenka wondered, tongue-in-cheek, how serious Williams' ailment could be: "I heard she won love and love, so what kind of injury are we talking about?"

Murray, playing with more confidence since his U.S. Open win in the final over Novak Djokovic that ended a 76-year drought for British men in majors, beat Robin Haase of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-1, 6-3. The

second-seeded Federer defeated Benoit Paire of France 6-2, 6-4, 6-1.

Murray needed just 1 hour, 37 minutes, and Federer 1:23 in their first-round matches. They'll need to conserve their energy for a potential semifinal against each other to determine a final against top-seeded and defending champion Djokovic, assuming all three men are still around on the final weekend.

Before a ball was hit Tuesday, players and officials were shocked to hear



**Serena Williams of the US lies on the court after falling during her first round match against Romania's Edina Gallovits-Hall at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013.**

of the serious illness and pending resignation of ATP World Tour executive chairman and president Brad Drewett. The ATP said in a statement Tuesday that Drewett, a former player, has motor neurone disease, or Lou Gehrig's disease, but will continue in his role on an interim basis until a successor is found "in the near future."

Drewett has held the top ATP position since Jan. 1 last year. The 54-year-old Australian was a top 40 singles and top 20 doubles player before he retired as a player in 1990.

Federer, president of the ATP Player Council, said the news was difficult for the tour and its players.

"I saw him yesterday and he told me the news," Federer said. "Obviously very emotional ..."

Murray said it was "shocking news."



**Switzerland's Roger Federer makes a backhand return to France's Benoit Paire during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013.**

works me very hard ... he tells you exactly how it is and that's exactly what I needed."

In other men's matches, No. 6 Juan Martin del Potro, 2008 finalist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, No. 13 Milos Raonic of Canada, who beat Jan Hajek 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 7-6 (0), No. 14 Gilles Simon, No. 17 . Philipp Kohlschreiber, No. 21 Andreas Seppi and No. 25 Florian Mayer advanced.

Local hope Bernard Tomic, who beat Djokovic at the Hopman Cup two weeks ago, defeated Leonardo Mayer of Argentina 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 in a night match. Tomic has been on a New Year's high after winning his first ATP tournament on Saturday at the Sydney International.

Frenchman Gael Monfils beat No. 18 Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine 6-7 (7), 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-3, and Finland's Jarkko Nieminen ousted No. 19 Tommy Haas 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-3, 4-6, 8-6.

Williams sounded almost matter-of-fact about her ankle ailment and its potential to affect her play in the rest of a Grand Slam she has won five times.

"I've played this tournament with so many injuries and was able to come off pretty on top," she said. "So for me, it's just another page and a great story to tell the grandkids one

day."

Williams is favored to win the season's first major, coming into Melbourne with 35 wins in her previous 36 matches, including titles at Wimbledon, the London Olympics and the U.S. Open.

In other women's matches, former No. 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki won the last six games to beat Sabine Lisicki of Germany 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 to advance along with No. 16 Roberta Vinci, No. 17 Lucie Safarova and No. 29 Sloane Stephens, the American teenager who beat Simona Halep of Romania 6-1, 6-1.

No. 20 Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium beat local hope Jarmila Gajdosova 6-1, 7-5 in the last of the night matches.

Former U.S. Open and French Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova continued her comeback from a knee injury that kept her out of the U.S. Open, ending her run of 40 consecutive majors. Also, No. 14 Maria Kirilenko had a 6-4, 6-2 win over American Vania King, and China's Peng Shuai beat Canada's Rebecca Marino 6-3, 6-0.

Two seeded players lost in the evening session. American Julie Hampton beat No. 31 Urszula Radwanska of Poland 6-2, 6-4 while Ukrainian qualifier Lesia Tsurenko defeated No. 24 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia 7-5, 3-6, 7-5.

And 42-year-old Kimiko Date-Krumm of Japan upset No. 12-seeded Nadia Petrova of Russia 6-2, 6-0 to become the oldest woman to win a singles match at the Australian Open.

While Serena Williams will have the day off to rest her weary ankle Wednesday, her sister Venus will be back in action against Alize Cornet of France, and Djokovic returns to play his second-round match against American Ryan Harrison. □



# U.S. teen Shiffrin wins World Cup slalom for third victory

ERIC WILLEMSSEN  
Associated Press

**FLACHAU, Austria (AP)** — American teenager Mikaela Shiffrin interrupted her homework for a couple of hours on Tuesday to write another piece of ski racing history at a women's World Cup night slalom. The 17-year-old Shiffrin, who has already become the world's leading slalom specialist, earned her third victory in her first full year on the circuit. "I'll probably try to get some reading done before going to bed tonight," she said after the race, revealing she had already spent most of the day doing homework for school. "Sometimes I feel the hardest subjects are the most fun. I am really a nerd." Shiffrin, who was second after the opening run, posted

the third-fastest time in the final run to finish in a combined time of 1 minute, 51.45 seconds. "It's unbelievable," said Shiffrin, who was cheered by 11,500 spectators. "I heard the crowd and I tried to let them take me down the course. They wanted me to win. That gave me wings." Frida Hansdotter of Sweden was 0.85 back in second, and Tanja Poutiainen of Finland took third, trailing Shiffrin by 1.10. Former overall champion Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany, who led Shiffrin by 0.56 after the first run, straddled a gate shortly before the end of her final run and failed to finish. Shiffrin went further ahead on top of the discipline standings, leading closest challenger Tina Maze of

Slovenia by 436-355 points. The advantage makes the American a strong favorite to win this season's slalom title. "I can't imagine someone a year ago telling me I would be in this position now," Shiffrin said. "But I've always wanted it and I've worked for it as hard I can, so here I am." Shiffrin was already the first American to win two World Cup races before turning 18. She is exactly the same age — 17 years, 308 days — as Austrian great Annemarie Moser-Proell was when she earned her third career victory in 1971. Moser-Proell holds the all-time record of 62 World Cup wins. "She is without a doubt the best skier in history and I am making my way now," Shiffrin said. "In the summer, my coach



Mikaela Shiffrin, of the United States speeds past a pole on her way to clock the second fastest time in the first run of an alpine ski, women's World Cup slalom, in Flachau, Austria, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013.

Associated Press

was telling me about her. I had obviously heard of her but we looked up on Wikipedia about her results... And now I am here and it's amazing." Matching Moser-Proell made Shiffrin proud. It's part of her desire to be the best in everything she does — as quickly as possible. "I have big goals," the American said. "Part of my goals has always been to be the youngest to do

anything. I have tried to be faster than the older girls and faster than the boys. It just sets new challenges and that is fun." Overall World Cup leader Maze placed fifth, extending her lead over second-place Hoefl-Riesch to 590 points. In fifth place with 526 points, Shiffrin is the highest ranked American, just above Lindsey Vonn, who has 504 points. □

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## CASINO AND SHOPS



**NBA Capsules**

# Clippers down Grizzlies 99-73 without Chris Paul



Atlanta Hawks guard Jeff Teague (0) pats Chicago Bulls guard Marquis Teague (25), his brother, on the head after an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 14, 2013, in Chicago. The Bulls won 97-58. **Associated Press**

**Associated Press**

**MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)**

— Reserves Jamal Crawford and Matt Barnes each scored 16 points, and the Clippers easily routed the Memphis Grizzlies 99-73 Monday night with Chris Paul missing his first game

this season because of a bruised right kneecap.

The matchup between two of the best teams in the West wasn't close much of the way. While Paul watched from the bench, the Grizzlies were without their leading scorer: Rudy

Gay was excused for his grandmother's funeral in Baltimore.

Eric Bledsoe, starting for Paul, had 14 points, and Blake Griffin scored 10.

Zach Randolph had 15 for Memphis, which lost its second straight. Wayne Ellington added 11 in a rare start, and Darrell Arthur had 10.

**BULLS 97, HAWKS 58**

Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 13 rebounds, Luol Deng scored 18 points and the Chicago Bulls held Atlanta to a franchise-low 20 points in the first half of a victory over the Hawks.

Reserve forward Mike Scott scored 10 points to lead Atlanta as none of the starters reached double figures. Josh Smith and Kyle Korver had nine points each.

Jeff Teague had a layup with 7.9 seconds left to prevent the Hawks' lowest scoring total in franchise history. Atlanta has lost five

straight on the road and six of seven overall.

The Bulls held the Hawks to just five points in the second quarter and led 48-20 at the break.

**WIZARDS 120, MAGIC 91**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Emeke Okafor had 19 points and 11 rebounds, leading six players in double figures for Washington in a victory over the Magic for its third straight win. The Wizards were just 4-28 before their streak, but beat Oklahoma City, Atlanta and now Orlando — all at home — to nearly double their wins total. John Wall had 12 points and six assists in 20 minutes in his second game of the season after missing the Wizards' first 33 with a left knee injury. Washington shot a season-best 56.1 percent, scored its most points and had its largest winning margin of the season. Jameer Nelson had 19 points and 12 assists to

lead Orlando, and Nikola Vucevic added 13 points and 13 rebounds.

**CELTICS 100, BOBCATS 89**

**BOSTON (AP)** — Rajon Rondo scored 17 points with 12 assists and 10 rebounds to lead the Celtics to victory over Charlotte.

It was Rondo's third triple-double of the season and the 26th of his career, including playoffs.

Paul Pierce scored 19 and Avery Bradley added 16 for Boston, which won for a season-high sixth consecutive game. Kevin Garnett, who needed 13 points to tie Patrick Ewing for 16th on the NBA's career scoring list, was 2 for 11 from the field and scored just seven points to go with his 10 rebounds. Hakim Warrick and Ramon Sessions had 16 points apiece for the Bobcats, who lost their third straight and their 23rd in the last 25 games since opening the season 7-5. □

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## LeBron about to become youngest to score 20,000

**TIM REYNOLDS**  
**AP Basketball Writer**

LeBron James was the youngest player in NBA history to win rookie of the year, to record a triple-double, to score 1,000 points, to score 10,000 points, to win MVP honors at an All-Star Game ...

You get the idea.

His latest youngest-to-do-it milestone could come as early as Wednesday. He needs 18 points to become the 38th NBA player to score 20,000 in his career. If it happens on Wednesday when the Miami Heat visit the Golden State Warriors, James will be more than a year younger than anyone else to reach the mark.

"You look at how many players have come through this league, the history of the game," James said. "That 20K mark is very limited. How many guys have done that? It's very, very limited."

"It'll be big time. I'm not going to shy away from that. I'm not a big stats guy as far as individual, but that'll be pretty cool."

James' teammates say he could have reached 20,000 even faster.

"If LeBron was a different kind of player, he'd have a lot more points by now," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said. "He's so unselfish. We give him the ball enough to score more. He just won't do it. We've had the discussion. We've sat down at dinner and we both said, 'Sometimes, I wish I had it in me.' We talk about it, we joke about it, but when the game comes he's unselfish."

Considering James has scored at least 18 points in 74 of his last 75 games, including playoffs, the milestone would seem likely to be met against the Warriors. It's the next-to-last

game of a struggle-filled road swing for the Heat. Miami is 1-3 so far on the trip, yet still remain a half-game ahead of the New York Knicks for first place in the Eastern Conference standings.

Maybe a little celebrating is exactly what the Heat need right now.

If James scores the historic 20,000th point on Wednesday, he will have done so at the age of 28 years, 17 days. According to STATS LLC, the youngest to date to score 20,000 points was Kobe Bryant, who got there when he was 29 years, 122 days old.

And only Bryant, Wilt Chamberlain (29 years, 134 days) and Michael Jordan (29 years, 326 days) reached the milestone before turning 30.

"LeBron can think about shooting, then he'll see one of his teammates are open, and then he makes the right play and gets the ball to them," Wade said.

From the time he started playing basketball, it's been driven into James' head that there's far more to the game than scoring. Imagine if that wasn't the case.

It's a topic that some of his Heat teammates have debated more than once in recent weeks. The hypothetical scenario: What would happen if a plan was concocted to get James 35 shots in a game, or even more? How many points could he score? James has taken more than 25 shots in a game only once this season. Entering Tuesday's play, there's been 61 other instances of an NBA player shooting that many.

"LeBron taking 40 shots? Forget it," Heat guard James Jones said. "It's never happening."

He's probably right.

Bryant, Carmelo Anthony, Kevin Durant and James Harden are the top four scorers in the league this season, shooting a combined 48 percent. "If you talk to all the basketball 'people,' I'm not much of a scorer," James said. "When the conversation comes up with the best scorers in the game today, I'm never mentioned. Ever. It's Kobe, it's KD, it's Melo, it was D-Wade, but they don't talk about us anymore."

In terms of games played, James could be the seventh-fastest in NBA history to join the 20,000 club.

Wednesday will be his 726th regular-season game. Chamberlain needed only 499 games to score 20,000, followed by Jordan (620), Oscar Robertson (671), Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (684), Elgin Baylor (711) and Allen Iverson (713). If James gets it done on Wednesday, he'll reach the 20,000 mark one game faster than Shaquille O'Neal did.

"It shows, first of all, that I've been healthy," James said. "It shows that I've been fortunate enough to be on the floor. I've been able to work on my game and everything that I've worked on, I've been able to transfer that to a game situation. And I've had some teammates as well that have taken a little pressure off me, or I've been able to take pressure off them, by using my talents to the best of my ability."

Abdul-Jabbar owns the NBA record with 38,387 points. It's not a completely farfetched notion that James could leave the game as its all-time points leader, especially since he has said in recent years that his goal is to be considered the game's greatest player when he retires.

"That many points is not



Miami Heat forward LeBron James grimaces after he was fouled during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Sacramento Kings in Sacramento, Calif., Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013. Associated Press

what it's about for me," James said. "If I happen to get there, it'll be cool. I don't think I will. I don't know, 38,000 is crazy. If I concentrated on just scoring, then I could make a push at it."□

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# Cleanliness is next to .....

As newlyweds, Phyllis and I moved into a new apartment without the usual domestic objects. Neighbors, having purchased a new vacuum cleaner, donated their aged, "it does not work very well anymore" vacuum cleaner. Three points motivated me to accept this gift. One, wanting to get off on the right foot, I did not want to seem ungracious to new neighbors. Two, we did not have a vacuum, so one, even "working well anymore" was better than doing it the "elbow grease" way. And finally, as my buddy Bob reminds me, I hate throwing anything away; wanting instead to repair everything. I grew up in a car dealership; where to repair is noble.

Soon, the aged vacuum cleaner lay in pieces in the corner of our sparsely furnished living room. Slowly, lint, hair and dust were removed from electrical contacts, hearing shafts, and rotors. A family tradition was born. If it doesn't work, clean it. Within days we had a vacuum cleaner that had regained its youthful vigor. Amazing how everything works better when cleaned. I am not even saying repaired, just cleaned! The same can be said about your body. We clean our clothes, our skin, our houses, our cars, our floors, but what about our insides? We can clean our large intestines with a method called colon hydrotherapy. Since we introduced this procedure in Aruba at Viana Natural Healing Center we have seen small miracles take place.

Historically, colon hydrotherapy was a popular form of treatment among physicians in the 1930's and 40's and has been experienc-

ing reappearance among natural physicians. "Colon lavage" was first recorded 1500 B.C., in the Ebers Papyrus, which dealt with ancient medical practices. These enemas were described as the infusion of aqueous substances into the large intestine through the anus. Hippocrates, the "father" of allopathic medicine in the fourth and fifth Century B.C. recorded using enemas as a therapy for the reduction of fevers. In the second Century A.D., Galen, one of my heroes, also recognized and was an advocate of the use of enemas while strongly criticizing his contemporaries for their ignorance, greed, and superficial knowledge of the art of medicine. Also, Pare, the French surgeon, born in Laval, whose great practical skills and humane-ness distinguished him from his contemporaries, in 1600 A.D., offered the first distinction between colon irrigation and the popular enema therapy of that age. We are talking about all the true medical greats here.

So what is it? Colon hydrotherapy is an extended and more complete form of an enema. The treatment is designed to cleanse above the rectum to the cecum. The cecum is the first part of the large intestine, located on the lower right side of the abdomen and having a worm-shaped tube branching off called the appendix. Colon hydrotherapy involves the gentle infusion of warm filtered water into the rectum by the therapist or Natural Physician., using no chemicals or drugs. It is the natural solution to conditions, which interfere with the normal functions of the colon. The individual lies on his back, and water is mechanically infused into and

out of the intestine without any assistance on the part of the patient. The out flowing water removes excess gas, mucus, infectious material and feces.

So why should a person consider colonics? An unclean, weak and poorly functioning colon is a breeding ground for disease, sickness and death. Natural Physicians will tell you that "old age starts in the colon". Serious health problems can develop if the colon is not properly cared for, and based on health statistics; colon health care in developed countries has been woefully neglected.

In the United States alone, over 400 million dollars is spent annually on laxatives. Laxatives act as chemical irritants and stimulate the muscular walls of the colon to abnormally contract to expel the irritating substances. It is very easy to become dependent upon these drugs. The oral route of administration is the least optimal method of evacuation of the large intestine. Very important digestive processes occurring higher up in the alimentary tract (stomach and small intestine) are interfered with. Most laxatives dehydrate or force the body to lose important water. Colon hydrotherapy alternately fills and empties the colon and improves the hydration status of the patient. A very good thing, since most people's bodies are severely lacking water. Additional health statistics tell us that this year an estimated 130,000 new cases of colon and rectal cancer will be diagnosed in the United States, making it the fourth most common form of cancer among Americans. Good colon health is as much a function of the qual-

ity of food, based on our blood type, we eat, as it is our elimination status. The Standard American/ Aruban Diet (SAD) comprised of refined, processed foods, high in saturated fats, sugar, flour, preservatives and low in fiber, inevitably causes problems for the colon. Over time, the colon loses the ability to process vital nutrients, absorb water and to eliminate fecal matter from the body, a condition commonly known as "constipation", making bowel movements infrequent, and difficult.

With constipation comes toxicity. Toxins present in the unhealthy colon can be transported into the circulatory system and soon the body may be unable to properly metabolize food and fat, or to provide vital energy for living! Colon toxicity can be the underlying cause of many commonly reported health problems and may indicate the need for colon hydrotherapy. Symptoms include: Constipation, Backaches, Diarrhea, Skin Problems, Difficult Weight Loss, Insomnia, Hypertension, Headaches, Arthritis, Bad Breath/Halitosis, Asthma, Allergies and this list could go on.

Intestinal cleansing is a therapeutic procedure, which addresses the cause or source of many of your medical problem. Other measures, especially allopathic drugs, which treat only the symptoms, will provide only temporary relief. Colon hydrotherapy could clean and dilute the toxin load in the large intestine, resulting in a reduced burden on the liver, allowing the eliminative organs to function optimally. Colon hydrotherapy could also prevent stagnation and minimize the exposure



of carcinogenic agents to the colon wall. The above combined effect may serve to rejuvenate the immunological system and truly be a pathway to vibrant health!

Get the point! Your colon, together with your lungs, skin and kidneys, are designed to keep you healthy by accomplish the essential task of the elimination of toxins in the intestines, blood and lymph systems. You know the saying says "Cleanliness is next to Godliness". Now you know why.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: [www.vianaheal.com](http://www.vianaheal.com)

Dr. Viana's NEW BOOK: Prescriptions from Paradise, Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine - Available at local Bookstores, Hotel Gift shops and Boticas. Signed copies at Viana Healing Center, Ebook on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), check for Events at: [facebook.com/vianahealingcenter](https://www.facebook.com/vianahealingcenter). □

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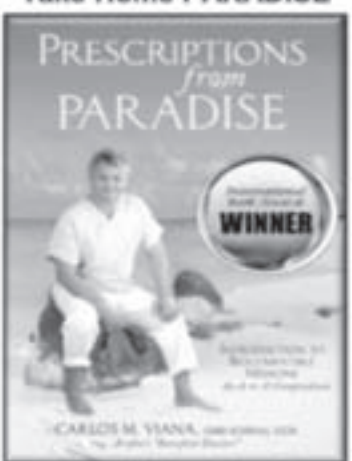
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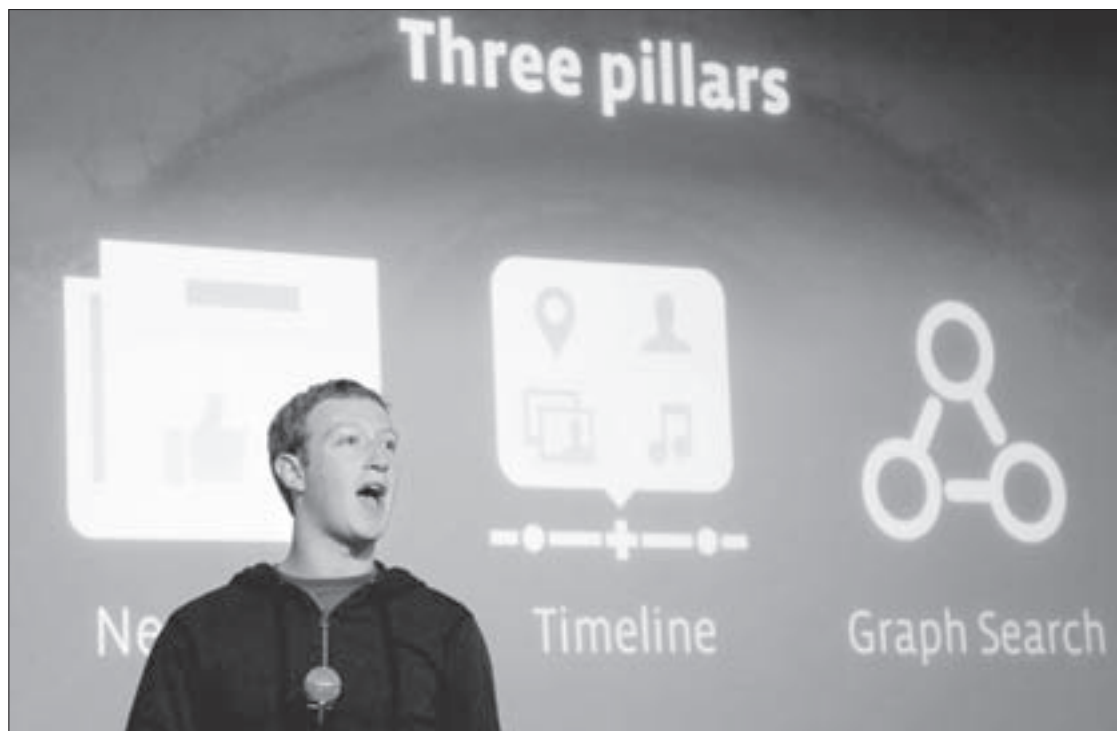
# Facebook unveils social search feature

**BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
AP Technology Writer  
MENLO PARK, California

(AP) — Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg unveiled a new search feature on Tuesday in the company's first staged event at its Menlo Park, California, headquarters since its May initial public offering.

Called "graph search," the new service lets users search their social connections for information about people, interests, photos and places. It'll help users who, for instance, want to scroll through all the photos their friends have taken in Paris or search for the favorite TV shows of all their friends who happen to be doctors. Until now, Facebook users were unable to search for friends who live in a certain town or like a particular movie. With the new feature, people can search for friends who, say, live in Boston who also like "Zero Dark Thirty".

Zuckerberg says the search feature is "privacy aware," which means users can only search for content that has been shared with them. Still, the company will have to make it clear to users that the new feature isn't unearthing information about them that wasn't already available. Facebook is stressing that graph search will be made available to users very slowly, beginning Tuesday. Though the company has focused on refining its mobile product for much of last year, the search feature will only be available on Facebook's website for now, and only in English. It will likely take more than a year for search to be available to all of Facebook's more than 1 billion users as the company's engineers and designers tweak the service based on how peo-



**Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks at Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif., Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013. Zuckerberg introduced "graph search" Tuesday, a new service that lets users search their social connections for information about their friends' interests, and for photos and places.**  
Associated Press

ple use it. Though Zuckerberg stressed that "graph search" is different from traditional Web search, the expanded feature escalates an already fierce duel between Google and Facebook as they grapple for the attention of Web surfers and revenue from online advertisers.

Although Facebook isn't trying to fetch information across the Web like Google does, it's clearly trying to divert traffic and ad spending from its rival. Facebook is hoping to do this by making it easier for its users to quickly find many of the things that are most important to them: movie, music and restaurant recommendations from friends and family; photo galleries of people they care about; and new connections to old friends and other people with common interests. It's the kind of personal data that has been difficult for Google to collect, partly because Facebook has walled off its social network from its rival's search

engine. Instead, Facebook has partnered with Microsoft Corp. to use its Bing search engine to power traditional Web searches done through its site. That partnership remains.

Zuckerberg acknowledged that it's unlikely that many people will visit Facebook to do traditional Web search. But that doesn't mean they shouldn't be able to. "There is a lot of content you can find on graph search but there is a lot you can't," he said. "It's much better to show world-class Web search results...than to show nothing." Google is trying to overcome its social network disadvantage with Google Plus, a service that the company launched 19 months ago in attempt to glean more insights into people's relationships and counter the threat posed by Facebook. Helped by Google's aggressive promotion of the service, Plus boasts more than 135 million people who post information and photos on

their profiles. But Google Plus users still aren't shar-

ing as much or hanging out on its service as long as Facebook users do, raising questions about whether Google will ever be able to get a grasp on the Internet's social sphere as firmly as Facebook does.

Facebook now must prove it can master the intricacies of search and picking the right ads to show to the right people at the right time — complicated tasks that Google has honed during the past 14 years to establish itself as the Internet's most powerful company. It currently produces 10 times more annual revenue than Facebook. Though neither company has released its 2012 financial results, analysts are projecting \$52 billion in 2012 revenue for Google versus about \$5 billion for Facebook. □

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# Wal-Mart to hire vets, buy American

**ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**

**AP Retail Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer and the biggest U.S. private employer with 1.4 million workers, said Tuesday that it is rolling out a three-part plan to help jumpstart America's sluggish economy. The plan includes hiring

said at an annual retail industry convention in New York on Tuesday morning. "The beauty of the private sector is that we don't have to win an election, convince Congress or pass a bill to do what we think is right. We can simply move forward, doing what we know is right." At the center of Wal-Mart's plan is its

experience and qualifications." Simon, who served in the Navy, said that veterans have "a record of performance under pressure." "They're quick learners, and they're team players. These are leaders with discipline, training, and a passion for service. There is a seriousness and sense of purpose that the military in-



**Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer and nation's largest private employer, said Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013, it is making a pledge to boost its sourcing from domestic suppliers and hire more than 100,000 veterans.**

(AP Photo/Seth Perlman)

more than 100,000 veterans in the next five years, spending \$50 billion to buy more American-made merchandise in the next 10 years and helping its part-time workers move into full-time positions sooner. The move comes as Wal-Mart's attempts to rebound from blows to its reputation in recent months from an alleged bribery scandal in Mexico and a deadly fire in November at a Bangladesh factory that supplies clothes to the company. Wal-Mart, which often has been criticized for offering low-paying jobs and not buying more from U.S. manufacturers, said its plan will highlight the career opportunities in the retail industry. "We've developed a national paralysis that's driven by all of us waiting for someone else to do something," Bill Simon, president and CEO of Wal-Mart's U.S. business,

pledge to hire army veterans, many of who come from Afghanistan and Iraq are having a particularly hard time finding employment. The unemployment rate for veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan stood at 10.8 percent in December versus the overall unemployment rate of 7.8 percent. The company said plans to hire every veteran who wants a job and has been honorably discharged in the first 12 months of active duty. The program, which will start on Memorial Day, will include jobs mostly in Wal-Mart's stores or in its Sam's Club locations. Some will be at its headquarters, based in Bentonville, Arkansas or the company's distribution centers. Dave Tovar, a Wal-Mart spokesman, says that the company hasn't worked out the details but it will "match up the veterans'

skills, and we need it today more than ever," he said. Wal-Mart said First Lady Michelle Obama's team has expressed an interest in working with Wal-Mart and with the rest of the business community. In the next several weeks, Simon said the White House will convene the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense and major U.S. employers to encourage businesses to make commitments to train and employ American's returning veterans. The first lady, who spearheaded a White House drive to encourage businesses to hire veterans, praised Wal-Mart's announcement on Tuesday, calling it "historic." "We all believe that no one who serves our country should have to fight for a job once they return home," The first lady said in the statement. □

# Nov. US home prices up sharply

**C. S. RUGABER**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. home prices in November extended their steady recovery from the housing bust, rising 7.4 percent compared with a year ago. It was the biggest year-over-year increase in 6½ years. CoreLogic, a private data provider, said Tuesday that prices also rose 0.3 percent in November from October. The month-to-month figures are not seasonally adjusted. CoreLogic compiles its indexes by tracking sales of the same homes over time, using data on sales in all 50 states. The gains in home prices have been widespread across most of the country. And Core-

Logic forecasts that prices will increase 6 percent this year.

Prices in November were higher than in November 2011 in all but six states. And only 13 of 100 large cities that CoreLogic studies reported year-over-year price declines. That was down from 20 cities in October.

The sharpest increases were in Arizona, Nevada and Idaho. North Dakota and California rounded out the top five.

Steady price increases are helping fuel the housing recovery. They're encouraging some people to sell homes and enticing would-be buyers to purchase homes before they get more expensive. □

# Dec. US retail sales up 0.5%

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. consumers increased their spending at retail businesses in December, buying more autos, furniture and clothing. Steady job growth and lower gas prices kept consumers shopping for the holidays, despite worries about potentially tax increases. Retail sales rose 0.5 percent in December from November, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. That's slightly better than November's 0.4 percent increase and the best showing since September. Sales of autos and auto parts rose 1.6 percent to lead all categories. Car companies closed out their best sales year since 2007.

Total retail spending was even stronger when factoring in a steep drop in gas prices.

And so-called core retail sales, which exclude gas, building materials and autos, rose 0.6 percent after a 0.5 percent increase in November.

Economists pay closer attention to core sales because they strip out the most volatile categories and are a better gauge of consumer spending.

Two straight months of solid increases in core sales suggest consumers were not too worried about tense negotiations to resolve the fiscal cliff. Congress and the White House ultimately reached a deal on Jan. 1 that prevented income taxes from rising for most households. □



**A couple descend an escalator while shopping at an H&M store, in Atlanta. U.S. consumers increased their spending at retail businesses in December, buying more autos, furniture and clothing.**

(AP Photo/David Goldman)



# Stocks edge higher as retail rally ignores Washington

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Stocks edged higher on Wall Street after a rally in retail stocks offset concerns about flaring tensions in Washington over increasing the country's borrowing limit. The Dow Jones industrial average ended the day up 27.57 points, or 0.2 percent, at 13,534.89. The Dow moved higher in the late afternoon after being down as much as 62 points in the early going. The Standard and Poor's 500 rose 1.66 points to 1,472.34, a five-year high. The Nasdaq composite index, dragged down by a fall in Apple, fell 6.72 points to 3,110.78.

Retail stocks moved higher throughout the day, boosted by a report that showed retail sales increased in December, helping the major indexes reverse early

losses.

Consumers bought more autos, furniture and clothing, despite worries about potential tax increases, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. Sales rose 0.5 percent in December from November, slightly better than November's 0.4 percent increase and the best showing since September. J.C. Penney rose 62 cents, or 3.4 percent, to \$18.71. Dollar General gained \$1.62, or 3.8 percent, to \$44.64. Ford advanced 31 cents, or 2.2 percent, to \$14.30.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told congressional leaders in a letter late Monday that the U.S. government will reach its borrowing limit as soon as mid-February, earlier than expected. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke also commented on the issue Monday, saying it was



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.  
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

one of the "critical fiscal watersheds" for the government in coming weeks. President Barack Obama has criticized congressional Republicans for linking talks over raising the debt ceiling to ongoing budget negotiations. Obama said the consequences of the U.S. government default-

ing on its debt would be disastrous and shouldn't be used as a bargaining chip to extract concessions on spending cuts.

"We are very concerned how the market is going to respond to all the news events that will be coming out of Washington over the next few months," said Eric

Wiegand, a senior portfolio manager at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "It really comes down to the uncertainty and the risk of a further downgrade of our debt." Markets were roiled in the summer of 2011 as lawmakers haggled over an increase to the debt limit. The dispute cost the U.S. its AAA ranking from the credit-rating firm Standard and Poor's.

The U.S. fiscal crisis is still the biggest single individual risk facing investors, with 37 percent of investors naming it as the biggest worry, according to a survey of fund managers published by Bank of America Merrill Lynch Tuesday. The European debt crisis was cited as the biggest concern by 23 percent of those polled and a "hard landing" for the Chinese economy was third on the list with 12 percent. □

## Automakers agree to build Jeeps for China market

**DAVID RUNK**  
**Associated Press**

**DETROIT (AP)** — Fiat, Chrysler and a Chinese automaker announced Tuesday that they have signed an agreement to expand vehicle manufacturing in China and produce the Jeep for sale in that market. The companies said the deal was signed at Chrysler Group LLC's headquarters in the Detroit suburb of Auburn Hills. It was announced

as Guangzhou Automobile Group Co. discussed its plans during press days at the North American International Auto Show.

A joint venture between GAC Group, Fiat Group Automobiles SpA and Chrysler Group International LLC currently builds the Fiat Viaggio and distributes models such as the Fiat 500, Freemont and Bravo in China. Production of more Fiat models is planned.

"The expansion of the agreement with our GAC partners will allow us to unleash the potential of both our Fiat and Chrysler Group brands in China," Jeep President and CEO Mike Manley, who also is chief operating officer for Fiat SpA's Asia Pacific region, said in a statement. The companies say the venture's next step will be to build Jeeps in China for the Chinese market. Jeep

already sells several models in China, including the Grand Cherokee, Wrangler and Compass, but they are imported. Jeep has said volume would be incremental to start.

"This agreement is another milestone of our partnership with Fiat and Chrysler Group," Zeng Qinghong, general manager of GAC Group, said in a statement. "It definitely creates the basis for our JV to reach

very ambitious objectives in Chinese market."

Chrysler is owned by Italian carmaker Fiat.

Details of which Jeep model might be built first or when production might start weren't specified. After GAC Group's news conference, however, Qinghong told reporters that the hope is for production to begin in 2014. He said increasing demand for Jeeps is expected. □

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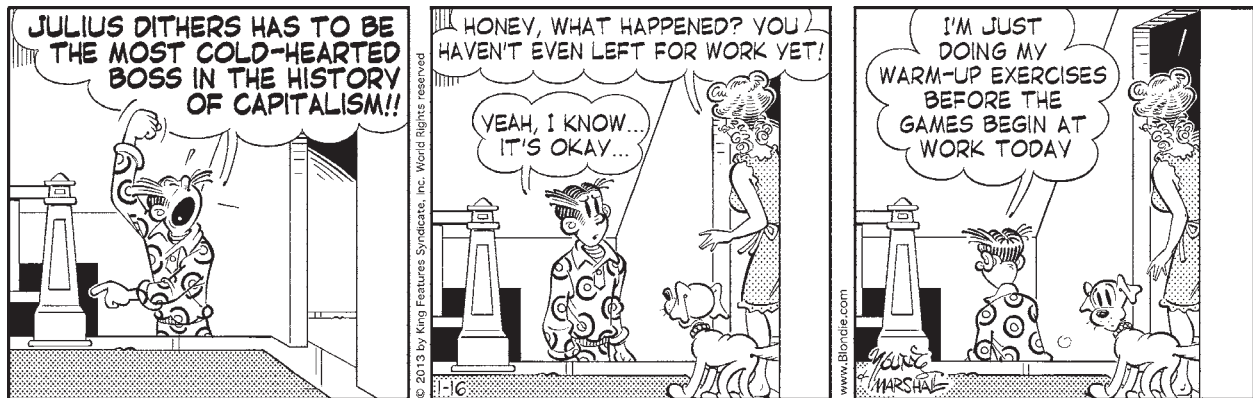
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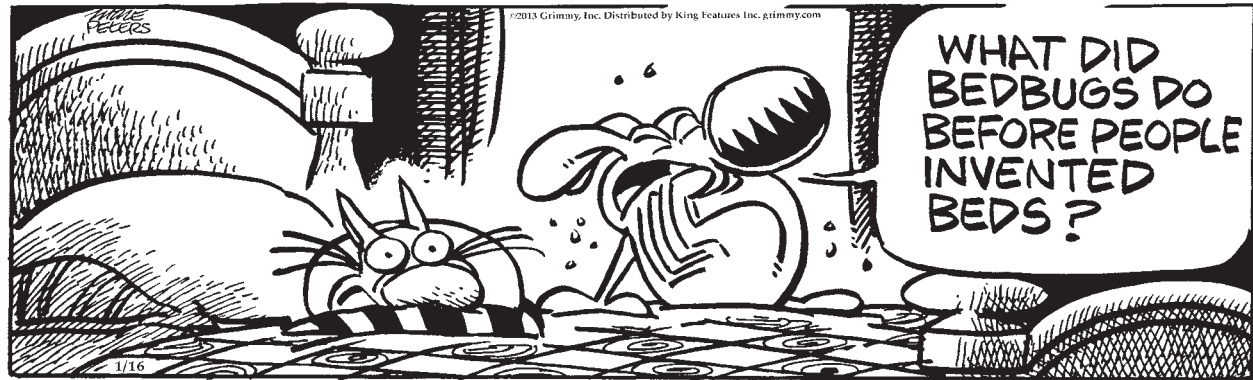
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Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

8		5				3		
	6		7		5		2	
		2				5		
	2		9		1		3	7
				6				
	9	8	3	4	7	2	5	
		4				6		
		3				8		
			8	2	9			

Difficulty Level ★★

1/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	5	4	1	6	9	8	7	2
8	7	1	2	5	3	9	4	6
9	2	6	8	7	4	3	1	5
2	8	3	5	9	1	4	6	7
1	4	9	6	8	7	5	2	3
5	6	7	4	3	2	1	9	8
4	1	8	7	2	5	6	3	9
6	3	2	9	1	8	7	5	4
7	9	5	3	4	6	2	8	1

ACROSS

- 1 Treaty
- 5 Tilts to one side
- 10 Drove too fast
- 14 Hardly \_\_; seldom
- 15 Take the lid off
- 16 Castro's nation
- 17 Very small
- 18 Weak; indecisive
- 20 Suffix for old, cold or bold
- 21 Kept a straight \_\_; didn't laugh
- 22 Accumulate
- 23 Official order
- 25 Tear
- 26 Soundness of mind
- 28 Wichita's state
- 31 De Mille or Moorehead
- 32 Standing straight
- 34 Shortest month: abbr.
- 36 Court order
- 37 Two-by-four
- 38 Celebrity
- 39 Bering or Dead
- 40 Stops
- 41 Fraternity letter
- 42 Parents and grandparents
- 44 William Randolph \_\_
- 45 Pen contents
- 46 Papers to be filled out
- 47 Abraham's son
- 50 "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" author
- 51 Show-off
- 54 Get-together
- 57 \_\_ a ball; enjoy oneself
- 58 Actress Winslet
- 59 Theater walkway
- 60 Corrupt
- 61 Slender
- 62 Nuisances
- 63 Late actor Foxx

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23				24					25			
26				27					28			29
30				31					32			33
34				35					36			37
38				39					40			41
42				43					44			45
46				47					48			49
50				51					52			53
54				55					56			57
58				59					60			61
62				63					64			65

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/16/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

BRAS	REACH	SHOT
EACH	AWARE	HOLE
ATEE	TEHEE	OPEN
DESPAIR	ADDRESS	
AGO	ASSET	
PADRE	JIRE	CEASE
HARD	ADD	EARNED
ARE	PIOUSLY	DAD
SOARED	OAF	DELI
ENDED	DUD	POSSE
SAFES	CAL	
SCHOLAR	PATELLA	
HAIL	CIDER	FOAM
ANTE	EDICT	UNDO
MESS	SEEKS	LESS

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1/16/13

DOWN

- 1 Singer Seeger
- 2 Hertz rival
- 3 One hundredth anniversary
- 4 Endeavor
- 5 Nuttiness
- 6 \_\_ legislation; pass laws
- 7 Pinnacle
- 8 Capture
- 9 Secret agent
- 10 Rascals
- 11 Wild feline
- 12 Diminishes
- 13 Dennis & Doris
- 19 Artist's need
- 21 Is the right size
- 24 Count calories
- 25 Off-the-\_\_; not custom-made
- 26 Cutting tools
- 27 See eye to eye
- 28 Wahl and Olin
- 29 English Leather or Old Spice
- 30 Chairs & pews
- 32 Perpendicular building wings
- 33 Rodent
- 35 Sassy child

- 37 Green area for recreation
- 38 Counterfeit
- 40 Consequently
- 41 Six years, for a U.S. senator
- 43 Jeweled crown
- 44 Dwellings
- 46 Shortcoming
- 47 Annoys
- 48 Close tightly
- 49 "Nay" voter
- 50 Supervisor
- 52 Gung-ho
- 53 Blend together
- 55 Use a stun gun
- 56 Compete
- 57 That woman



# End Near? Doomsday Clock Holds at 5 'Til Midnight



The hands of the infamous "Doomsday Clock" will remain firmly in their place at five minutes to midnight — symbolizing humans' destruction — for the year 2013, scientists announced today (Jan. 14). Keeping their outlook for the future of humanity quite dim, the group of scientists also wrote an open letter to President Barack Obama, urging him to partner with other global leaders to act on climate change.

The clock is a symbol of the threat of humanity's imminent destruction from nuclear or biological weapons, climate change and other human-caused disasters. In making their deliberations about how to update the clock's time this year, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists considered the current state of nuclear arsenals around the globe, the slow and costly recovery from events like Fukushima nuclear meltdown, and extreme weather events that fit in with a pattern of global warming.

"2012 was the hottest year on record in the contiguous United States, marked by devastating drought and brutal storms," the letter says. "These extreme events are exactly what climate models predict for an atmosphere laden with greenhouse gases." [Doom and Gloom: 10 Post-Apocalyptic Worlds] At the same time, the letter did give a nod to some progress, applauding the president for taking steps to "nudge the country along a more rational energy path," with his support

for wind and other renewable energy sources.

"We have as much hope for Obama's second term in office as we did in 2010, when we moved back the hand of the Clock after his first year in office," Robert Socolow, chair of the board that determines the clock's position, said in a statement. "This is the year for U.S. leadership in slowing climate change and setting a path toward a world without nuclear weapons."

The Doomsday Clock came into being in 1947 as a way for atomic scientists to warn the world of the dangers of nuclear weapons. That year, the Bulletin set the time at seven minutes to midnight, with midnight symbolizing humanity's destruction. □

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# World warm last year, but not like record U.S. heat

**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — While the U.S. was smashing heat records last year, the world as a whole barely slipped into the top 10 hottest years ever recorded, two American science agencies said Tuesday.

The global average temperature for last year would have been a record 15 years ago, an indication that what used to be unusual heat is more commonplace. Now it merely ranks 10th, something climate scientists shows man-made climate change in action. Last year's average was 58 degrees Fahrenheit (14.5 degrees Celsius), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said. That's a full degree above the 20th century average of 57 F (13.9 C). The hottest was 2010 when the average temperature was 58.2 degrees (14.6 degrees Celsius). NOAA records go back to 1880.

"We're playing in a new neighborhood as far as global temperatures go, compared to even the late 20th century and especially the mid-20th century," said Deke Arndt, head of monitoring for NOAA's National Climatic Data Center.

A weather pattern called La Nina — the flip side of El Nino — and mildness in Alaska, Canada, the United Kingdom and parts of Asia moderated the globe's average temperature. The Lower 48 states in the U.S. recorded its hottest year last year with an average of 55.3 F. (12.9 C) "In global warming, you expect warming to manifest itself in different locations in any given year," said



**In this Friday, Dec. 28, 2012 file photo, the sun sets behind the Christ the Redeemer statue and the Corcovado mountain in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, two days after the city recorded its hottest day since 1915 at 43 degrees Celsius (109.7 degrees Fahrenheit. Associated Press**

Andrew Weaver, a climate scientist at the University of Victoria in Canada. "This year it was America's turn to feel the brunt of global warming's growing fury." NASA, which measures temperatures differently, ranks 2012 as ninth warmest.

It put the temperature at 58.3 F (14.6 C). Both agencies announced the data Tuesday.

Some global warming skeptics have claimed the world hasn't warmed in the last 16 years, but each decade is warmer than the last. Even the first three years of this decade were warmer than the last, the two agencies said. Since 1963, NOAA said the global temperature has increased at a rate of 0.27 degrees Fahrenheit a decade (0.15 degrees Celsius).

Top NASA climate scientist James Hansen said in the past few years there has been a temporary "apparent standstill in global temperatures" that is heavily due to more frequent cooling La Ninas. What's significant, he said, is that

temperatures are rising decade by decade. Hansen and other scientists said the planet is warming because the world is spewing ever rising amounts of greenhouse

gases — mostly carbon dioxide. Those heat-trapping gases are from the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

The La Nina pattern, which generally cools the ocean globally, happens every few years and was in play for much of 2011 and the early part of 2012. Yet both years were the hottest La Nina years on record and that shows the underlying global warming at work, said climate scientist Stefan Rahmstorf of the Max Planck Institute in Germany.

The last time the world had a cooler than average year was 1976, according to NOAA. That means more than half the people on Earth haven't lived during a cooler than normal year for the globe.

Three groups keep track of

global surface temperatures with records that go back more than a century: NOAA, NASA and the British meteorology office. The British records for 2012 aren't finished yet, but are hovering around ninth warmest on record, said monitoring chief David Parker.

NASA and NOAA calculations differ mostly in the polar areas, where there are far less measurements.

A fourth group out of the University of Alabama at Huntsville looks at temperatures measured by satellites and only goes back to 1979, but is preferred by climate skeptics.

That measurement ranked 2012 as the ninth warmest on record and notes that 11 of the 12 hottest years in their dataset have occurred since 2001. □

## NASA's Curiosity rover readying to drill on Mars

**ALICIA CHANG**  
AP Science Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Scientists have zeroed in on a Martian target for the Curiosity rover to drill into: A rock outcrop as flat as a pool table that's expected to yield fresh insight into the red planet's history.

Running a tad behind schedule, Curiosity was due to arrive at the site in the next several days. After an inspection of the surroundings, the car-size rover will test its drill for the first time "probably in the next two weeks," project manager Richard Cook of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory said Tuesday.

The highly anticipated drilling has been billed as the most complex engineering task since the acrobatic



**This image released by NASA shows the view of Curiosity's planned first drilling site. The six-wheel, nuclear-powered rover landed five months ago on a mission to study whether Mars was habitable. Engineers are preparing Curiosity to drill into its first Martian rock. The enlargements of rocks seen on the right, and denoted by letters and boxes within the left image, represent this diversity. Each box is about 9 inches (22 centimeters) square.**

**Associated Press**

landing inside a Martian crater last summer. Curiosity is on a quest to determine whether environmental conditions could have been favorable for microbes. By boring into a rock and transferring the

powder to the rover's on-board chemistry lab and other instruments, scientists should get a better handle on the region's mineral and chemical makeup.

"We're thrilled, and we can't wait to get drilling," said project scientist John Grotzinger of the California Institute of Technology. Previous rovers Opportunity and Spirit carried a grinding tool that peeled away rock layers. Curiosity is capable of drilling down several inches to collect a sample from the interior — a first on Mars.

Opportunity is still operating on the surface of Mars, but Spirit lost contact with Earth in 2010. □

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## Newtown shooting survivors record song for charity

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Children who survived last month's shooting rampage at Connecticut's Sandy Hook Elementary School have recorded a version of "Over the Rainbow" to raise money for charity. Twenty-one children from Newtown, Conn., performed the song Tuesday with singer-songwriter Ingrid Michaelson on ABC's "Good Morning America." Most of them are current and former students of the school, where 20 first-graders and six staff members were killed.

They recorded "Over the Rainbow" on Monday at the Fairfield, Conn., home of Chris Frantz and Tina Weymouth, two former members of the Talking Heads and Tom Tom Club rock bands. Copies went on sale Tuesday on Amazon and iTunes, with proceeds benefiting the United Way of Western Connecticut and the Newtown Youth Academy.

Kayla Verga, 10, said she was singing for a friend, 6-year-old Jessica Rekos, who was killed in the massacre. "Singing the song makes me feel like she's with me and she's beside me, singing along with me," Kayla told "GMA."

Another girl, 10-year-old Sandy Hook student Jane Shearin, added, "I really want to be kind to the people who have lost their loved ones and help them to recover from their sorrow." Gunman Adam Lanza went on a shooting spree with a semiautomatic rifle in the school on Dec. 14 after having killed his mother at their home in Newtown. He fatally shot himself as police arrived at the school. It's still unclear what motivated the attack. The Sandy Hook children have returned to classes in a neighboring town at a building renamed for their old school. Newtown officials and residents have begun discussing what to do with the school where the shootings occurred. □

## Review: Naturalism of 'LUV' beset by cliches

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — It comes as a disappointment that "LUV," a drama about the tragic realities of fathers and sons in unforgiving urban environs, can't measure up to the lyricism of its star's own music.

The film stars Common, the thoughtful, charismatic Chicago rhymers who, in three- and four-minute hip-hop ruminations, summons more vibrant social imagery than the well-intended but hollow 1 ½ hours of "LUV."

Common has been more of a cultural ambassador for years now (he was a bizarrely controversial White House guest in 2011), and has increasingly concentrated on acting. "LUV," for which he is also a producer, is perhaps the best close-up yet of an uncommonly smooth performer.

In the film, the feature film debut of Sheldon Candis who co-wrote it with Justin Wilson, Common plays the former convict Vincent, an uncle to the parentless 11-year-old Woody (Michael Rainey Jr.).

"LUV" takes place over a day in Baltimore in which Vincent, driving Woody to school from his grandmother's, instead detours for a lesson-filled day of bond-



This film image released by Indomina shows Michael Rainey Jr., left, and Common in a scene from "Luv." Associated Press

ing. Vincent pledges that he'll teach the shy Woody how to "handle your business across the board."

Dressed handsomely and driving a Mercedes, Vincent appears an upright father-figure, but he's desperate to put to work a business plan for which he's \$22,000 short. Worse, gang warfare is raging and the word on the street is that Vincent got out of prison suspiciously early.

It's a promising enough conceit — a stressed, un-

trustworthy but inherently decent guy trying to play the role-model — but the day takes awkward, implausible turns, jumping from violence to stone-skipping in the harbor. The dialogue, too, is often cringe-worthy as the two meet various friends and associates of Vincent's, with cameos by Danny Glover, Dennis Haysbert, Clark Johnson and Michael Kenneth Williams.

Along the way, Vincent teaches Woody (whom

Rainey Jr. plays with poise beyond his years) some tenants of manhood: how to properly open crabs, how to give a strong handshake, how to drive a car, how to shoot a gun. Though lacking some dynamism, Common has the gravity to keep the film grounded.

The film, wearing its inspirations on its sleeve, is a kind of "Training Day" hoping for interstitial Terrence Malick poetry in the Baltimore landscape of "The Wire" with the occasional sensationalism of an action film. The clichés mount as the journey leads to bloody standoffs and drug dealer confrontations.

Surely there is plenty here to scar a child, though there's little that suggests any trauma for Woody.

Still, there is tenderness in "LUV." One suspects Candis can mature as a naturalistic director if he follows the tagline of his film: "Follow your hero, or become your own man." After all, we are not exactly showered with intimate, aspiring films of urban life.

"LUV," an Indomina Media Inc. release, is rated R for violence, language, child endangerment and some drug content.

Running time: 95 minutes. One and a half stars out of four. □

## 'Burt Wonderstone' to open SXSW film festival

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Steve Carell magician comedy "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone" will kick off the annual South by Southwest film festival.

The Austin, Texas, festival announced Tuesday the film will premiere as the opening night film March 8.

"The Incredible Burt Wonderstone" stars Carell and Steve Buscemi as a washed-up Las Vegas magician duo, with Jim Carrey a rival street performer. It also stars Olivia Wilde, Alan Arkin and James Gandolfini. It was directed by Don Scardino. Warner Bros. Pictures will release the film in theaters March 13. The SXSW film festival runs March 8-16. □



This undated publicity photo released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Steve Buscemi, left, as Anton Marvellon and Steve Carell, as Burt Wonderstone, in New Line Cinema's comedy "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

Associated Press



## Megan Fox no longer emulates Marilyn Monroe



This magazine cover released by Esquire shows actress Megan Fox on the cover of the February 2013 issue of Esquire magazine.

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Instead of chasing fame, Megan Fox is running from it. The “Transformers” actress tells Esquire magazine she wanted to be like Marilyn Monroe and even has a tattoo of the late actress on her arm, but she has begun the process of having it removed.

The 26-year-old says she read about Monroe’s “difficult life” where she had “all the potential in the world”

that was wasted. Monroe, she says, “wasn’t reliable” and “almost wasn’t insurable.” She goes on to compare Lindsay Lohan to Monroe.

Fox says she’s “not interested in following in those footsteps.” Fox now admires Ava Gardner, who “was a broad” who spoke her mind and “had power.”

Esquire’s February issue goes on sale Jan. 22. □

Associated Press

## New Dan Brown novel ‘Inferno’ coming in May

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A new Dan Brown novel is coming in May, and the subject is Dante.

Doubleday announced Tuesday that Brown’s book is called “Inferno,” named for Dante’s epic journey in verse. Brown again will feature Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon, the protagonist for his blockbuster “The Da Vinci Code” and for the million-selling follow-up “The Lost Symbol.”

The new book might seem

familiar in other ways, as Brown again takes on a masterpiece of Western civilization. “The Da Vinci Code” centered on an iconic painting, the Mona Lisa.

“Although I studied Dante’s ‘Inferno’ as a student, it wasn’t until recently, while researching in Florence, that I came to appreciate the enduring influence of Dante’s work on the modern world,” Brown said in a statement. □

## ‘American Idol’ returns betting big on new judges



Randy Jackson, from left, Mariah Carey, Keith Urban and Nicki Minaj from “American Idol” attend the Fox Winter TCA Tour at the Langham Huntington Hotel on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2013, in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

**LYNN ELBER**  
AP Television Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — “American Idol” is facing a \$36 million-plus question: Will that combined paycheck lavished on superstar judges Mariah Carey, Nicki Minaj and Keith Urban pay off in ratings?

The newcomers have their work cut out for them whether they earn it with colorful feuding or by discovering a singer who can charm America.

The talent show, a TV groundbreaker when it debuted in 2002 despite a starless panel with Simon Cowell, Randy Jackson and Paula Abdul, needs every edge as its audience erodes and other contests emerge as challengers.

“I think it’s actually a renewal (of ‘Idol’) every couple of years, and what you’re seeing now is this panel has reinvigorated the show,” said Mike Darnell, Fox president of alternative entertainment.

NBC’s “The Voice,” one of the newcomers, enjoyed immediate success with brand-name panelists Christina Aguilera, Blake Shelton, Cee Lo Green and Adam Levine. But famous faces don’t guarantee a return, as Cowell’s “The X Factor” most recently proved.

Britney Spears, whose lack-

luster performance failed to capitalize on buzz about her intriguing foray into live TV, split from the show last week. It was a \$15 million lesson for all interested parties.

But “American Idol,” returning Wednesday (8 p.m. EST) with host Ryan Seacrest, has to make noise as it hits relative old age for a TV series, with its ratings still hefty but on a steady downward spiral.

Last season, “Idol” lost its status as the most-watched TV program for the first time since 2003, eclipsed by NBC’s “Sunday Night Football,” and pegged its lowest-rated season since it debuted in summer 2002. An open-wallet approach worked for “Idol” before, with Jennifer Lopez validating her \$12 million paycheck by helping (with Steven Tyler) to boost the show’s ratings in 2011. That allowed Ellen DeGeneres’ short-lived and genially unimpressive judging stint that ended in 2010 to fade into memory.

The result: Carey is raking in close to \$18 million, Minaj is getting \$12 million and Urban’s take is a reported \$6 million for the season.

Add in mainstay Jackson’s share (in the reported single-digit millions) and that’s a platinum-plated group. But it’s potentially money

well spent for a show that, en route to living up to its title of finding new pop stars, has to keep viewers firmly engaged.

Finding a breakout star like Kelly Clarkson or Carrie Underwood or Jennifer Hudson is one way to do it, but the odds are long. So it’s up to the professionals to step in.

“It’s more of an entertainment show than anything else, and if judges can supply the entertainment that’s an ingredient for success,” said analyst Brad Adgate of Horizon Media.

“With ‘X Factor’ that didn’t happen and the show didn’t get into the fabric of pop culture.”

Carey and Minaj already are demonstrating their potential. Their feud, whether real or fabricated, has produced such head-shaking, headline-making moments as Carey alleging that Minaj threatened to shoot her after a taping. The rapper responded with dismissive tweets.

At a news conference, Minaj tried to downplay the squabble.

“We’re professionals. Have you ever had an argument with someone you’ve worked with?” she said after repeated questions about her working relationship with Carey. □



# Japan Steps Out



**PAUL KRUGMAN**  
© 2013 New York Times

For three years economic policy throughout the advanced world has been paralyzed, despite high unemployment, by a dismal orthodoxy. Every suggestion of action to create jobs has been shot down with warnings of dire consequences. If we spend more, the Very Serious People say, the bond markets will punish us. If we print more money, inflation will soar. Nothing should be done because nothing can be done, except ever harsher austerity, which will someday, somehow, be rewarded.

But now it seems that one major nation is breaking ranks – and that nation is, of all places, Japan.

This isn't the maverick we were looking for. In Japan governments come and governments go, but nothing ever seems to change – indeed, Shinzo Abe, the new prime minister, has had the job before, and his party's victory was widely seen as the return of the “dinosaurs” who misruled the country for decades. Furthermore, Japan, with its huge government debt and aging population, was supposed to have even less room for maneuver than other advanced countries.

But Abe returned to office pledging to end Japan's long economic stagnation, and he has already taken steps orthodoxy says we mustn't take. And the early indications are that it's going pretty well.

Some background: Long before the 2008 financial crisis plunged America and Europe into a deep and prolonged economic slump, Japan held a dress rehearsal in the economics of stagnation. When a burst stock and real estate bubble pushed Japan into recession, the policy response was too little, too late and too inconsistent.

To be sure, there was a lot of spending on public works, but the government, worried about debt, always pulled back before a solid recovery could get established, and by the late 1990s persistent deflation was already entrenched. In the early 2000s the Bank of Japan, the counterpart of the Federal Reserve, tried to fight deflation by printing a lot of money. But it, too, pulled back at the first hint of improvement, and the deflation never went away. That said, Japan never had the kind of employment and human disaster we've experienced since 2008. Indeed, our policy re-

sponse has been so inadequate that I've suggested that American economists who used to be very harsh in their condemnations of Japanese policy, a group that includes Ben Bernanke and, well, me, visit Tokyo to apologize to the emperor. We have, after all, done even worse.

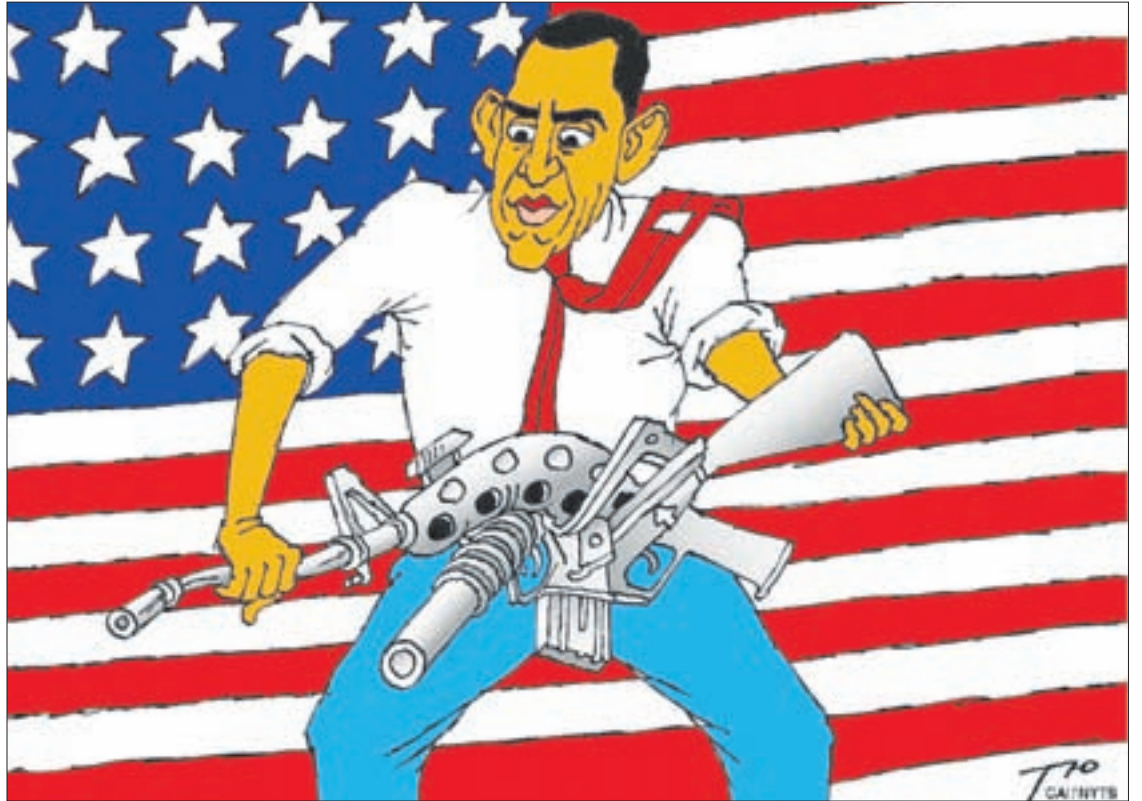
And there's another lesson in Japan's experience: While getting out of a prolonged slump turns out to be very difficult, that's mainly because it's hard getting policymakers to accept the need for bold action. That is, the problem is mainly political and intellectual, rather than strictly economic. For the risks of action are much smaller than the Very Serious People want you to believe.

Consider, in particular, the alleged dangers of debt and deficits. Here in America, we are constantly warned that we must slash spending now now now or we'll turn into Greece, Greece I tell you. But Greece, a country without a currency, doesn't look much like the United States; surely Japan offers a more relevant model. And while doomsayers keep predicting a fiscal crisis in Japan, hyping each uptick in interest rates as a sign of the imminent apocalypse, it keeps not happening: Japan's government can still borrow long term at a rate of less than 1 percent. Enter Abe, who has been pressuring the Bank of Japan into seeking higher inflation – in effect, helping to inflate away part of the government's debt – and has also just announced a large new program of fiscal stimulus. How have the market gods responded?

The answer is, it's all good. Market measures of expected inflation, which were negative not long ago – that is, the market was expecting deflation to continue – have now moved well into positive territory. But government borrowing costs have hardly changed at all; given the prospect of moderate inflation, this means that Japan's fiscal outlook has actually improved sharply. True, the foreign-exchange value of the yen has fallen considerably – but that's actually very good news, and Japanese exporters are cheering.

In short, Abe has thumbed his nose at orthodoxy, with excellent results. Now, people who know something about Japanese politics warn me not to think of Abe as a good guy. His foreign policy, they tell me, is very bad, and his support for stimulus may have more to do with old-fashioned pork-barrel (tofu barrel?) politics than with a sophisticated rejection of conventional wisdom.

But none of that may matter. Whatever his motives, Abe is breaking with a bad orthodoxy. And if he succeeds, something remarkable may be about to happen: Japan, which pioneered the economics of stagnation, may also end up showing the rest of us the way out. □



## Collaborate Vs. Collaborate



**THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN**  
© 2013 New York Times

**PALO ALTO, Calif.** – Col-lab-orate: (k-uh-lab-uh-reytl); verb (used without object); col-lab-orat-ed, col-lab-o-rat-ing.

1. to work, one with another; cooperate, as on a literary work: “They collaborated on a novel.”  
2. to cooperate, usually willingly, with an enemy nation, especially with an enemy occupying one's country: “He collaborated with the Nazis during World War II.”

It is often said that Britain and the United States are two countries divided by a common language. That is also true of Washington and Silicon Valley. The other day, I was interviewing Alan S. Cohen, an expert on networks who has been involved in several successful startups. At one point, Cohen began talking about the importance of “collaboration” both within and between firms in Silicon Valley. Then he stopped and said it's interesting that in Silicon Valley “collaboration” is defined as something you do with another colleague or company to achieve greatness – something to be praised – as in: “They collaborated on that beautiful piece of software.” But in Congress “collaboration” means something very different today. It's the second definition – collaboration is an act of treason – something you do when you cross over and vote with the other party. In Silicon Valley, great “collaborators” are prized; in Washington, they are hanged. Said Cohen, who was vice president at Nicira, a networking startup that recently sold for \$1.26 bil-

lion: “In Washington, when they say ‘collaborator’ they mean ‘traitor’; here they mean ‘colleague.’”

It's not the only reason, but it's a big reason that Silicon Valley is thriving more than ever, finding more ways to solve bigger and bigger problems faster, and that Washington is only capable of producing 11th-hour, patched-together, Rube Goldberg compromises, with no due diligence, that produce only suboptimal outcomes to our biggest problems. In Washington today collaboration happens only to avert crises or to give out pork, not to build anything great. That is why if Congress were a startup, the early-stage investors would have long ago been wiped out and the firm shuttered. Cause of death: an inability of the partners to collaborate. “People in Washington,” said Cohen, “forgot that they are developers: ‘I am on this committee. I have to fix this problem and write some software to do it,’ and that requires collaboration. They have forgotten their job and the customer.”

Don't get me wrong, Silicon Valley is not some knitting circle where everyone happily shares their best ideas. It is the most competitive, dog-eat-dog, I-will-sue-you-if-you-even-think-about-infringing-my-patents innovation hub in the world. In that sense, it is, as politics is and should always be, a clash of ideas. What Silicon Valley is not, though, is only a clash of ideas.

Despite the heated competition, lots of collaboration still happens here for one main reason: to serve the customer the best product or service. One way is through new open-source innovation platforms like GitHub – a kind of “Wikipedia for programmers” – where hobbyists, startups and big firms share ideas in order to enlist more people (either within a firm in restricted ways or from the outside in a wide open manner) to help improve their

software or websites.

Another way is through “co-opetition.” There are many examples here of companies trying to kill each other in one market but working together in another – to better serve customers. Microsoft Windows runs on Apple Macs because customers wanted it. When Apple Maps failed, Apple asked its users to download Google Maps. Finally, within firms, it is understood that to thrive in today's market, solve the biggest problems and serve customers, you need to assemble the best minds from anywhere in the world.

“When you obsess about the customer, you end up defeating your competition as a byproduct,” said K.R. Sridhar, the founder of Bloom Energy, a fuel-cell company. “When you are just obsessed about the competition, you end up killing yourself” as a byproduct – “because you are not focused on the customer.”

The far-right lurch of the GOP's base has made this problem worse. When President Barack Obama built his health care plan on Mitt Romney's operating system in Massachusetts, Romney was so focused on coddling his base to beat Obama – rather than trying to improve Obama's iteration of Romney's own design to best serve all the customers – that Romney disowned his own software. What company would do that?

“Sure, competition here is sharp-elbowed,” said Reid Hoffman, a co-founder of LinkedIn. “But no one can succeed by themselves. Apple today is totally focused on how it can better work with its (applications) developer community.” It cannot thrive without them. “The only way you can achieve something magnificent is by working with other people,” said Hoffman. “There is lots of co-opetition.” LinkedIn competes with headhunters and is used by headhunters. □



# Hot cars wow the press at auto show in Detroit



A model poses with the 2014 Maserati Quattroporte at media previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

## The Associated Press

The North American International Auto Show begins this week in Detroit with media and industry previews. It opens to the public Jan. 19. While they can't all be as hot as the 2014 Maserati Quattroporte, featured are some of the more interesting and outstanding new cars and experimental concept vehicles being unveiled at the show:

**CADILLAC ELR:** General Motors is trying to take the Chevrolet Volt's electric technology upscale in a new Cadillac. The ELR has the same battery and gas-powered generator as the Volt. The car has angular lights and fenders like other new Cadillacs, but it also has a more sloped, forward-leaning aerodynamic look. It also has a plush new interior that differentiates it from the Volt and sets the tone for future Cadillacs.

**FORD ATLAS CONCEPT:** Ford is trying to keep its ri-

vals at bay with a concept that hints at the look of the next F-Series pickup. The Atlas has a chiseled design and a bigger, more elaborate grille. Ford is emphasizing fuel economy. The Atlas has shutters on the grille and wheels that close automatically, improving

aerodynamics. The new truck also will weigh several hundred pounds less than the current model and have a more efficient engine. Ford won't say when the new truck goes on sale, but it's likely to be a 2015 model.

**KIA CADENZA:** Kia is moving into the North American premium sedan market with the 2014 Cadenza, aiming for buyers looking in the gap between mainstream and luxury. Kia got its start in the U.S. as an economy car maker, but has been moving upscale.



The 2014 Chevrolet Corvette debuts at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

The arm of South Korean automaker Kia Motors Corp. describes the sedan as having elements of European design, which help define the higher-end market. It will be offered with Kia's most powerful V-6 engine.

**CHEVROLET CORVETTE:** The 2014 model is the first all-new version of the iconic sports car in nine years. It has a dramatic styling that picks up cues from the 1963 Sting Ray and newer Corvettes. GM promised it would perform better than the current model yet will get better gas mileage. The two-seater arrives at showrooms in the fall. A 6.2-liter small-block V-8 with 450 horsepower takes the car from zero to 60 mph in under four seconds.

**JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE DIESEL:** The top-selling Grand Cherokee is making the jump to diesel power. It marks the first major expansion into diesel in the U.S. by a mainstream SUV maker, showing the potential for boosting power and fuel economy. The SUV's 3.0-liter, EcoDiesel V-6 engine promises 240 horsepower and the ability to tow up to 7,400 pounds. It's expected to get 21 mpg in the city and 30 mpg on the highway in 4x2 models, and 20 mpg city and 28 mpg highway for 4x4 models.

**VOLKSWAGEN CROSS-BLUE:** Volkswagen may be getting into the midsize SUV market. It rolled out a concept SUV called the CrossBlue at the show. It would be a first in the U.S. market: a plug-in hybrid SUV with a diesel engine and two electric motors. In electric mode, it would get the equivalent of 89 miles per gallon (30 kilometers per liter), a measurement reached by estimating the energy it uses. In hybrid mode, it would get an estimated 35 mpg (15 kpl). VW will decide whether to make the vehicle in the next few months, based partly on reaction of show visitors. □